

June 11 election announced to 'end uncertainty'

Thatcher goes for third win

ELECTION 87 XI

● Mrs Margaret Thatcher has gambled her 130-seat majority in a bid to become the first party leader this century to win three elections in a row.

● Mr Neil Kinnock is expected to win speedy approval for a Labour manifesto combining a moral crusade against Thatcherism and hard policy commitments on unemployment and poverty.

The general election is to be held on June 11.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday gambled the 130 majority which could have kept her in office for another year and a large measure of the Government's parliamentary programme in an attempt to become the first party leader this century to win three elections in a row.

Shortly after the election was announced, Mrs Thatcher said: "I don't think I have been pushed into anything. It was best to end the uncertainty so that we can all plan for the future."

That response fed the suspicions of opposition politicians that Mrs Thatcher had not called the June election in response to almost irresistible pressure from the media, but had planned to do so all along. It would have been perfectly possible for the Government to have intervened to halt the speculation at an earlier stage.

Mrs Thatcher, who is 61, signalled her determination to carry on until the next election

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

after this — and well beyond it.

The Conservative manifesto next week, she said, would be one "setting the course to go up to the end of this century." "We really ought to set Britain's course for the next century as well as this."

Although it makes tactical sense for Mrs Thatcher to reassure voters that they would not be electing her for a

Geoffrey Smith 2
Parliament 4
MPs at risk 5
TV danger 12
Leading article 13

couple of years, with the unknown to come after, few ministers now doubt her genuine intention to carry on right through the next Parliament if re-elected.

The idea of a snap election on June 4 was ruled out because the Prime Minister had long pledged not to go before four years were up, an anniversary which occurs on June 9, and because there is a Jewish feast day that day.

June 18 was ruled out as it would have meant a long campaign and Tory strategists saw no need to prove once again the Prime Minister's stamina. Mrs Thatcher was also determined to rob Labour of the chance of exploiting the conspicuous consumption at the Ascot race meeting in the week of June 18.

The Prime Minister slept on the advice she had been given by her "A-team" of six senior ministers at Chequers on Sunday before calling a full Cabinet at 11 am yesterday to inform them of her decision.

The meeting lasted 55 minutes. She then drove to Buckingham Palace to ask the Queen for the dissolution of Parliament and returned to Downing Street, where the election was announced soon after 2 pm.

Parliament will be dissolved on Monday, with the rest of this week devoted to pushing through as much of the Government's legislative programme as can be salvaged. After the election Parliament will reassemble for the election of the Speaker and swearing-in of MPs on June 17. The State opening of the new Parliament will take place on June 25.

With the latest opinion poll putting the Conservatives on 44 per cent, to 33 per cent for Labour and 21 per cent for the Alliance, Tory MPs were delighted with yesterday's decision. The Government is confident of returning with a healthy majority, although ministers accept that it is unlikely to be in the same range as the present 134.

The decks have been effectively cleared for the election, with the nurses' pay award paid in full, the search for nuclear waste sites in the English countryside abandoned and Budget tax cuts of 2p due to show through in pay packets next week.

Ministers are content that economic indicators will help the Government's cause. The unemployment figures due to be published on Thursday are expected to show a further fall from the March figure of 3,143,000 to a fraction over 3 million and the recent cut in mortgage rates will show up in the Retail Price Index to be published on Friday, bringing the annual inflation rate down to just above 4 per cent.

Continued on page 18, col 7

Continued on page 18, col 2



The election protagonists, Mrs Thatcher, Mr Kinnock, the Labour leader, and the leaders of the Alliance, Dr David Owen with Mr David Steel, who are now preparing for the three weeks of campaigning that lie ahead.

Kinnock holds tight rein on manifesto

By Our Chief Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock is expected to win speedy approval today for an election manifesto combining the theme of a moral crusade against Thatcherism with making the reduction of unemployment and poverty the priorities of an incoming Labour government.

Any attempt by the left to challenge what it sees as a weakening of the party's commitment to renationalize industries privatized by the Tories and its unilateralist stance on defence, and the omission of traditional

commitments such as ending the legislative powers of the House of Lords, are certain to be heavily defeated at the Clause V meeting of the shadow cabinet and the national executive.

At past elections the meeting has often been the scene of bitter, marathon disputes between the right and left but today's could be one of the shortest ever.

Mr Kinnock, who has drawn up the manifesto in consultation with a few of his closest colleagues, including Mr Roy Hattersley, has full backing from the shadow cabi-

net and a commanding majority on the NEC.

One member of the shadow cabinet said yesterday: "The left may try to kick up a fuss but they will be massacred."

The draft is not expected to undergo any large-scale amendment but there will be detailed discussions about priorities.

Although Labour officials make it clear that policies are not being dumped, the manifesto does not promise to take back into public control all the industries sold off by the Tories. It pledges instead to return British Gas and British Telecom and some other pri-

vatized companies to "social ownership". It promises early legislation to introduce a statutory minimum wage.

On defence, so often the most angrily contested area, the form of words used by Mr Kinnock in the draft is understood to be acceptable to senior members of the shadow cabinet on the centre-right.

It underlines that Labour will not require the removal of American cruise missiles while a superpower arms deal is imminent, and stresses that the commitment to remove American bases and weapons will be fully discussed with NATO countries.

During the campaign, The Times will carry unrivalled coverage. Political Editor Robin Oakley and Times political correspondents will follow the candidates, campaigns and constituencies which will decide the outcome on June 11. The Times will interview the party leaders, carry the results of exclusive opinion polls in the key marginals and investigate the pivotal issues which will move the votes of the most volatile British electorate this century. Jo Grimond joins a team of regular columnists which includes Conor Cruise O'Brien, T.E. Utley, Ben Pimlott, Woodrow Wyatt and John Grigg. David Butler and other expert analysts will cast a critical eye over the media, the polls and campaigning fashions.

Moscow 'is praying for Labour'

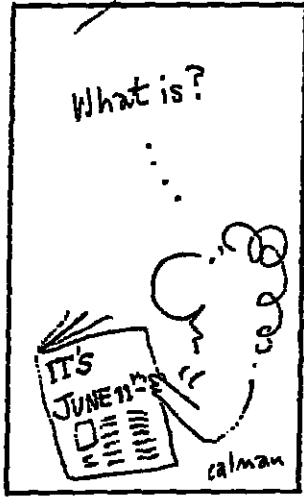
From Christopher Walker Moscow

Mr Denis Healey, the Shadow Spokesman on Foreign Affairs, yesterday told an impromptu press conference here that the Soviet authorities were "praying" for a Labour Party election victory.

His remark, made just two hours after the election was announced, appeared certain to raise further the profile of foreign and defence policy on the hustings. It was accompanied by a claim that he had been authorized by a Soviet official to reject publicly suggestions that the Kremlin would prefer to see a Conservative government reinstalled in Downing Street over a Labour one with a non-nuclear policy.

Mr Healey's bizarre press conference included further verbal fencing with a British diplomat from the embassy which, since his arrival on an Aeroflot flight on Sunday night, he has repeatedly accused of having a pro-Tory bias and of leaking a slanted

Continued on page 18, col 6



Budget measures dropped for poll

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Key legislation to introduce stiffer penalties for crime, to implement parts of the Budget and to encourage more private finance in publicly rented housing were dropped by the Government last night in the wake of the election announcement.

After protracted discussions with the Labour front bench and the Alliance parties, the Government sacrificed most of the Criminal Justice Bill and the Finance Bill, and important parts of the Local Government Bill, to get its other legislation through by Friday.

Informal discussions had been taking place between the party Whips for several days. After confirmation of the election, that developed into hard bargaining yesterday afternoon, and a deal with which the Labour Party was voicing satisfaction last night.

As a result the 2p cut in income tax announced in the Budget will go through. It will

be debated in the Commons again today on the report stage of the Finance Bill and be opposed by the opposition parties. But the Government's majority will ensure that it is passed, and Labour will not further obstruct the proposal.

However, in return the Government has had to give up most of the remainder of the Finance Bill, including proposals on profit related pay, changes in the way corporation tax is charged on life insurance premiums and on portable pensions.

The most serious losses for the Government came on the Criminal Justice Bill, one of the centrepiece Bills of the present session.

Virtually the only part to survive are the clauses providing for the tackling of big City frauds. A Serious Fraud Office to handle cases of big fraud, as recommended by Lord Roskill, is to be set up.

Continued on page 18, col 7

INSIDE

Marathon list

The Times completes its coverage of the Mars London Marathon today by publishing the results and performances of all the runners who finished the course in more than three hours. Pages 33-36

In fashion

Today Liz Smith, the distinguished fashion writer, joins The Times as Fashion Editor. She brings to Britain's best-informed fashion page a lively insight — from haute couture to the high street — for busy, discerning people. Page 11

Portfolio — Gold —

● The Times Portfolio Gold daily competition prize of £4,000 was shared by two readers yesterday. Details, page 3.
● Portfolio list, page 25.

INDEX

Home News	2-5
Overseas	6-9
Business	19-25
Sport	37-40, 42
Appointments	8, 28-32
Arts	17
Births, deaths, marriages	21
City Diary	15
Court	14
Crosswords	10, 18
Diary	12
Entertainments	16
Features	10-12
Information	37
Law Report	13
Leading articles	13
Letters	14
Obituaries	4
Parliament	15
Safe room	15
Science	41
TV & Radio	16
Universities	18
Weather	18
Wills	14

WHO seeks evidence over vaccine link to Aids virus

By Pearce Wright and Thomson Prentice

A report in The Times yesterday revealing the theory that the Aids epidemic in Africa may have been triggered by a smallpox immunization programme sparked intense debate among scientists.

Some are increasingly concerned about the safety of potential Aids vaccines based on the original smallpox compound.

An urgent call for evidence to support the theory was called for by the Geneva-based World Health Organization last night.

Dr Jonathan Mann, director of the WHO programme on Aids, said it was "imperative" that any evidence to support the hypothesis should be submitted to expert scrutiny. He said that WHO was not aware of any scientific data supporting the idea that the global smallpox eradication project, completed in 1980,

might be connected with the Aids outbreak. The theory was "not proven".

However, the idea that the smallpox vaccine may have stimulated Aids in people infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) was discussed by WHO last autumn, it was disclosed yesterday. No action was taken, because of the lack of hard evidence.

They had no follow-up data from the smallpox eradication campaign, because no systematic studies of the complications produced by the mass immunization had been possible.

Some scientists believe more research into the possibility is necessary. Professor Oswald Jarrett, one of a team of Aids vaccine researchers at Glasgow University, said last night: "We need to know whether the virus was spread from a

small to a large group of people through the immunization programme."

Dr Laurence Gertis, a clinical researcher who has been monitoring the progress of Aids, said: "Previous circumstantial evidence looks more persuasive alongside the latest research that shows Aids can be stimulated by smallpox vaccination."

But Dr Jonathan Weber, a leading Aids researcher at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, said: "The smallpox vaccination programme has been and gone. The link between it and the Aids epidemic are in my mind too simplistic."

Miss Renee Sabatier, of the Panos Institute, an independent health research organization, said: "The hypothesis linking the WHO programme with the epidemic in Africa is very difficult to prove or disprove."

R-R shares show 50p profit on grey market

By Joe Joseph

Shares in Rolls-Royce climbed to 135p yesterday on the unofficial "grey" market, a premium of 50p on the 85p partly-paid issue price, giving anyone allocated the minimum number of 150 shares an instant profit of £75.

However, about a third of this windfall is likely to go in dealing costs when the shares are sold.

The shares, which began trading on the Stock Exchange on May 20, jumped 10p from

Friday's levels after the weekend's news that heavy public demand for a stake in the state-owned aero-engine maker had forced the Government to ration shares among the 2 million who applied.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank advising the Government on the offer, said it was looking into why many would-be investors had been unable to get hold of applications forms in time.

Applications check, page 19

Chinook 'flew a loop'

A Chinook helicopter "looped the loop" before it nosedived into the sea off the Shetlands, killing 45 people on board last November, an inquiry was told yesterday.

Captain Pusht Vaid described the helicopter's last moments as a continuous movement of going up, going on to its back and coming down, gathering speed as it

plunged into the water.

There was no time to exchange words with the co-pilot after he heard a dull bang. The helicopter went out of control

The accident was the world's worst civil helicopter disaster and happened at about 250 feet as the craft was 15 miles from its destination at Sumburgh airport. Inquiry report, page 3

Impassive Barbie listens to roll call of victims

A frisson ran through the packed Lyons Assize Court yesterday at the opening of what is expected to be the last of the great trials of Nazi criminals in France, as the frail old man in the dock identified himself as Klaus Altmann. He declined to use the emotive name of Klaus Barbie, the former head of the Gestapo in the French city.

Shortly after 1 pm, the man known as "the Butcher of Lyons", dressed in a dark pin-striped suit and pale blue shirt, was led stooping and handcuffed by two policemen to his place on the right of the court, shielded from the public by a bullet-proof glass screen.

"Your name?" the presiding judge, M Andre Cerdini, asked. "Klaus Altmann," the accused replied to derisive whistles from the court

Altman was the pseudonym Barbie had used while living in Bolivia. "Your father's name?" M Cerdini persisted. "Nikolaus Barbie," he replied.

Speaking in German through an interpreter, Barbie said he had used the name Altmann since March, 1951. When challenged by a lawyer representing the families of his alleged victims whether he had not given two interviews under the name of Klaus Barbie while in La Paz, he replied: "I shall not reply to those questions." The judge ruled that he should be tried under the name of "Klaus Altmann, alias Barbie".

Barbie appeared relaxed and confident, breaking into a smile when leaning over to chat to his lawyer, Maître Jacques Vernès, and remaining

impassive when listening to the litany of names of men, women and children he is accused of arresting, torturing, and deporting to extermination camps.

The day was largely devoted to procedural matters such as the swearing in of the jury; the reading of the list of the 170 civil parties to the action; and the calling of witnesses who included such well-known names as Elie Wiesel, the Nobel Peace Prize winner and M Jacques Chaban-Delmas, former French Prime Minister and Resistance fighter.

What with some 400 journalists, more than 40 lawyers, and all the civil parties, witnesses, and court officials packed into the court yesterday, there was little room for the public — about 60 were allowed to stand at the back.

Today's proceedings are expected to be devoted to the completion of the prosecution's case against Barbie, and accusations by the civil parties, followed tomorrow by testimony about Barbie from expert witnesses, including psychiatrists. Barbie is not due to start giving evidence until Thursday.

Application rejected: Mrs Evelyn le Chené, who had hoped to be able to appear as the only British witness at the trial, had her application to constitute a civil party to the action turned down by the presiding judge of the Assize Court in Lyons yesterday. Mrs Lechene's British officer husband, Pierre, was arrested by the Gestapo in Lyons, and was then deported to a German extermination camp.

Facing the nightmare, page 7

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NEWS SUMMARY

Civil Servants go for strike ballot

Members of Britain's biggest Civil Service union are to be balloted on a three-day national strike next month.

The 140,000 members of the Civil and Public Services Association will also be asked to stage regional strikes throughout June in pursuit of their pay claim.

The decision, by 531 votes to 300, taken by delegates to the union's conference, was a defeat for the militant and hard left factions.

Mr John Ellis, the union's general secretary, argued that the union stood a better chance of forcing the Government to improve its 4.6 per cent pay offer if it continued its strategy of selective rolling strikes.

Killer Nissan gears up

Police were last night searching for an escaped killer.

George Vinyard was only 15 when he was jailed with other teenagers for a series of attacks on old women in London.

One victim, Mrs Rose Daniels, aged 85, was left tied up in a tiny cupboard. She was found dead a week later, and Vinyard was jailed for 12 years.

Vinyard escaped from prison officers in the East End while on a visit from prison in Buckinghamshire to his sick grandmother.

Assegai's battles

Dr Kuba Assegai, a community leader, yesterday launched a High Court challenge to prevent council's right to remove him as a school governor because it believes he is too extreme.

He was stripped of his governorship of two schools after claims that he had upset staff and children by telling them that the United States had an "ethnic bomb" that killed only blacks.

Dr Assegai is also asking the court to overturn a further decision to ban him from council premises.

Shotgun murderer sentenced to life

Dean Westwood, aged 22, who used a shotgun to kill his former girlfriend and her best friend, was jailed for life yesterday at Bristol Crown Court. Westwood, unemployed, of Beech Road, Weston-super-Mare, Avon, admitted the murders of Karen Hastings, aged 19, and Mandy Cotton, aged 18. Mr James Black, for the prosecution, said the former soldier was upset that Karen had ended their relationship.

Accountancy hurdle for black trainees

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Black graduates find it harder than white graduates to enter accountancy training, according to a formal investigation by the Commission for Racial Equality.

The investigation found that the overall success rate for white applicants receiving offers of training contracts with large companies was nearly three times as high as for black applicants in 1985 and nearly four times as high in 1986.

But the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales said it welcomed the finding which showed no deliberate racial discrimination in recruitment.

Mr John Morley, chairman of the institute's education and training directorate, said: "If there is a problem it is not one of racial discrimination by the accountancy profession. It is one of educational and social disadvantage further back in the chain."

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Baker demands dons quit in cash crisis

By Sarah Thompson Education Reporter

The 50-member council of University College, Cardiff, may be forced to offer its resignation to win a grant of up to £10 million from the Government which will save the college from bankruptcy.

The college authorities were yesterday waiting for clarification of an announcement by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, that the present management "would have to change" if the college is to win the grant to facilitate a merger with the University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology and to ensure its own survival.

An accumulated deficit of £4.5 million came to light in February. After a vote of no confidence by his academic staff and pressure from the Government, Dr Bill Bevan, the principal, resigned.

Dr Bevan, aged 66, accused the Department of Education and Science and the University Grants Committee of "blackmailing" him into resigning. He is now on an extended sabbatical which will take him to his official retirement date in September.

The bursar and the director of an appeal set up to raise funds for a new sports complex have also resigned.

A report by a UGC team, led by Mr Michael Shattock, and internal reports unearthed inefficiency and bad management which, if continued, would have increased the college debts to £7 million.

For example, the sports complex appeal was supposed to raise £1.5 million, but only raised £23,000 and cost £100,000.

At the same time, advisers have "discovered" more than £300,000 worth of mature endowments that could be used to help the college's immediate needs but which Professor Lee Sheridan, the acting principal, said, "no one seems to have known about".

Professor Sheridan maintains that no financial impropriety has been uncovered. He has refused to take legal action against any staff.

But Mr Baker and Sir David Hancock, permanent secretary at his department, are moving towards forcing wholesale resignations among the council of academics.

There was a heavy police presence when the first of the Provisional IRA's 'Loughall martyrs', Anthony Gormley, was buried at Galbally, Co Tyrone, (above) yesterday.

RUC officers in riot gear surrounded the graveside at which Mr Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, gave an oration, but no shots were fired.

Later, the coffin of Patrick Kelly, aged 36, the officer commanding of the Provisional IRA's East Tyrone 'brigade' was carried from his home in Dungannon, Co Tyrone, by men acting to command given in Irish. About 200 mourners gathered.

Earlier at Caledon, Co Tyrone, Mr Anthony Hughes, aged 34, a father of three, was driving home when he was caught in the gun battle outside Loughall police station.

Ferries 'may have carried passengers over limit'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

The inquiry into the Zeebrugge disaster heard yesterday of occasions when Townsend Thoresen car ferries may have sailed across the Channel carrying up to 300 more people than was legally permitted.

Mr Anthony Young, port operations director of Townsend Car Ferries, was questioned about a number of internal documents in which ships' masters complained about inaccuracies in the passenger count.

One master complained of four occasions in the space of two weeks when a ferry was thought to have carried more passengers than was allowed. In one case, 225 foot passengers had gone on board for whom no details had been recorded.

Mr Young said he could not accept such complaints as accurate though they were matters for investigation.

On another occasion a master complained that he had sailed with nearly 300 passengers more than was legally permitted.

Mr Young said that last autumn the company had commissioned consultants to look at the systems used by Townsend for counting passengers.

The consultants had made recommendations which were thought not to be an improvement on present systems.

But if improved facilities for collecting tickets could be provided it might be possible to act on the consultants' recommendations.

The complaints by ships' masters had to be kept in perspective. In the past seven years, during which there would have been about 120,000 sailings, there had probably been only about 30 to 35 complaints of discrepancies in the counts of the number of passengers.

Earlier, the inquiry completed taking evidence from Mr Jeffrey Develin, a director of Townsend Car Ferries.

He broke into tears as he denied having sought to mislead the inquiry. Last Thursday he had said that he had not considered installing lights on the bridge of ferries to indicate whether the bow and stern doors were closed until the day after the Zeebrugge disaster.

However, he had been confronted with a memorandum showing that the issue had been raised in 1985.

In a faltering voice, Mr Develin told the inquiry that his response, last Thursday had been muddled.

The topic of fitting bridge indicator lights had been considered before the loss of the Herald of Free Enterprise but in the context of ships which were to be newly built.

He also denied reports that he had been suspended from his duties by Townsend Car Ferries.

● The Herald of Free Enterprise will never sail again. Townsend Thoresen is expected to announce next week that it will be sold for scrap.

A price of at least £12 million, its insured value, has been put on refurbishing the vessel by the 11 British and European repair yards which have tendered to refit the vessel.

Industry sources indicated yesterday that Mr Peter Ford, Townsend Thoresen's chairman, is likely to announce that, after the £4 million already spent on salvaging the ferry, it will be sold for scrap as a constructive loss.

One of the leading tenders for the scrap contract is Smit Tak, the Dutch salvage company responsible for righting and then refloating the vessel.

The ship will not be replaced in the Townsend fleet as, by the end of the year, two new "super-ferries", the Pride of Dover and the Pride of Calais, will be carrying record numbers of passengers and vehicles.

At present, the Herald is moored at a temporary berth just inside the western mole of Zeebrugge harbour. Smit Tak, which has now removed all 100 lorries, cars and trailers from the ship, is due to begin towing it to Flushing in the Netherlands today or tomorrow. The final death toll is believed to be 192, Belgian naval authorities say.



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Union is defied on jail ship

By Peter Evans Home Affairs Correspondent

Rebel seamen defied their union to sail the detention ship, Earl William, into Harwich yesterday.

The first people under the Immigration Act to be held on her will probably be taken on board next week, the Home Office said last night.

The seamen's union imposed a boycott of the passenger ferry when plans to turn her into a floating detention centre were announced.

But some men ignored the union ruling and broke away to sign up for her owner, Sealink British Ferries.

They took Earl William into Harwich, to be met by protesting seamen and local people.

The seamen's union is refusing to have anything to do with the scheme. "It is a Tory election gimmick," a union spokesman said. "Conditions on board will soon make life miserable for the detainees."

Three of the dead had severe head injuries but there were no signs of violence on the body of a middle-aged man.

Surgeons at Orsett hospital, near Grays, were last night fighting to save the life of Mrs Higgins, who was found lying unconscious in a neighbour's house suffering from severe head injuries.

Mr Garrard said: "The scene was of pretty serious proportions. It was indicative of someone who has methodically carried out the attacks".

The police were alerted by a close associate of the family, who received one of two handwritten letters believed to have been sent by Mr Higgins. It was not disclosed who had received the second note.

Mr Garrard said: "The letter basically said that the police should be directed to this address and they had the authority to break in. The weight of evidence contained in the letters could give us a motive".

He said that a bottle of tablets had been found in the house.

Letters clue after multiple deaths

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Forensic tests will show whether the deaths of four members of a family in Essex were a multiple murder or a domestic murder and suicide.

Last night police were analyzing two letters which could disclose the motive behind the deaths. One is thought to have been sent to the police.

Det Supt John Garrard said that the possibility of a murder-suicide had not been excluded. The victims have not been positively identified by the police, who are still trying to trace relatives.

But he confirmed that the family living in the bungalow were Mr John Higgins, aged 51, a roofing contractor, his wife Carol, aged 45, and their two children, Francesca, aged 21, and Ben, aged 19. Also living in the bungalow was Mrs Higgins's mother, Mrs Violet Dietrich, aged 74.

The four dead were found yesterday after the police were tipped off and broke into a bungalow at Lampits Hill, Corringham, Essex.

Three of the dead had severe head injuries but there were no signs of violence on the body of a middle-aged man.

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Labour in pledge over rural homes shortage

By Nicholas Wood, Political Reporter

Plans to tackle rural housing shortages caused by outsiders acquiring property as holiday cottages were unveiled by the Labour Party yesterday.

A policy statement pledged a future Labour government to take steps to "reduce/control second homes where necessary", but Mr Barry Sheerman, the party's spokesman on employment and tourism, denied it meant taking regulatory powers.

Instead, Labour would ease planning controls to allow more low-cost accommodation for sale or rent to be built.

Mr Sheerman said that in popular holiday areas the indigenous population was being "squeezed" out.

Labour's plans are set out in *Quality, Community and Commitment*, a report of a working party chaired by Mr Sheerman.

It proposes setting up a ministry of tourism to co-ordinate planning and training in the industry; and to make holidays more readily available to the poor.

off course, it had been fired from the submarine HMS Repulse during trials.

Yesterday Royal Navy sources in London said that the failure was not "of enormous significance". A second missile launch was successful.

However there has been one failure in each of the past three years, despite the fact that the Polaris motors have been updated to prolong the life of the missiles as the introduction of the Trident system.

It was the third missile launch to go wrong in the past three years. The Polaris missile had to be destroyed by American range control technicians after it strayed wildly

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Builders press for housing ministry

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Britain's housebuilders are calling for an independent Ministry of Housing to fight for land and resources. They say there is a conflict over priorities within the Department of the Environment.

A letter sent to prospective parliamentary candidates argues that housing is an increasingly minor concern of the department.

It worked as an environment and conservation department, with housing regarded as something to obstruct for "environmental" reasons, the letter said.

Mr Peter Short, president of the House-builders Federation, wrote: "This is a great pity, because the level of housing development required is most emphatically not on a scale that threatens the environment - even though it is significantly greater than many perceive and even greater than the provisions of structure plans".

Mr Short argued that central government has an inescapable responsibility to provide the strategic framework in which housing and environmental needs, the interests of both urban and rural economies and communities, the expectation of both North and South and the demands and contributions of both the private and the public sector could be reconciled in the public interest.

"Therefore I firmly believe that housing, to be given the consideration and priority it merits, must be taken away from the 'green' tinted, budget-slashing Department of the Environment and established in a separate Ministry."

BANK OF IRELAND BASE RATE

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 12th May 1987 its Base Rate is decreased from 9.50% to 9% p.a.

Bank of Ireland
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COMMENTARY

Geoffrey Smith

This will be one of three historic general elections in Britain since the Second World War, whatever the outcome. Even election is historic in the sense of determining who will govern the country for the next few years. But there are some which have a more lasting impact on government and politics.

The first to do so in the post-war era was the 1945 election, which brought the Attlee Labour Government to power. It was that administration which established the consensus according to which Britain was then governed for more than a quarter of a century.

The main elements were a large industrial public sector, an extensive welfare state, high taxation to pay for the benefits, great respect for the power of the trade unions and a belief in activist government. It was up to governments to find answers to problems, wherever they cropped up.

That consensus was either modified or extended by succeeding governments of both parties. But there was no sustained challenge to it until Mrs Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979.

That was the second historic election. It brought to office an administration determined to reverse many of the features of the Attlee consensus and thereby to change the broad direction in which Britain had been governed for so many years.

Mrs Thatcher has not managed to do so in every respect. But she has privatized a number of industries, curbed the power of the unions, made some reductions in taxation and above all begun to change public attitudes.

There is a greater sense of economic realism, more respect for market forces and less reliance upon government as the fairy godmother.

But how permanent will these changes be? Will historians of the future look back upon the Thatcher years as an aberration or a turning point? That will largely depend upon the result of this election, which is the principal reason why it will be historic.

Already the opposition parties have had to make some adjustments to the experience of the Thatcher years. Labour has had to accept the sale of council houses and some of the trade union reforms.

Both Labour and the Alliance have had to take more care over costing their programmes and Dr David Owen has often gone out of his way to avoid condemning everything that Mrs Thatcher has done.

If the Conservatives win this election the process of adjustment will be taken further. The principal changes of the past eight years will become part of what Sir Keith Joseph used to call the common ground.

That does not mean everything Mrs Thatcher had done would then be regarded as sacrosanct. As with the Attlee consensus, her political legacy would be either modified or extended by her successors. But after 12 years of determined government in a particular direction many of the Thatcher policies would come to seem part of the natural order of things.

The election may also prove to be historic for its impact on the structure of the British party system. If Labour suffers a third devastating defeat, more people will be asking if it can ever win again.

45 were Pilot d doome did a lo

Jail ends th by Chelsea

Swansong of

Japan creates

45 were killed as aircraft plunged into sea after gearbox seized up

Pilot describes how doomed helicopter did a loop the loop

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The captain of the Chinook helicopter in which 45 men died when it plunged into the sea off the Shetlands, yesterday described how the aircraft looped the loop before crashing into the North Sea.

At an official inquiry into the accident, he related the last few seconds of the flight and his escape from beneath the waves.

Captain Pusht Vaid, aged 45, told the hearing in Aberdeen that the first thing he heard as he approached Sumburgh was a "dull bang". "It happened suddenly, I thought the gearbox had gone just behind me. The first thing the helicopter did was it went into a vertical position climbing upwards with the nose point up.

"Instinctively I got hold of the control stick and grabbed it and pushed it straight forward to put the helicopter back to a level position. The control had no effect at all."

"The helicopter went on its back and kept going all the way down. We hit the water nose first."

All the passengers except one were killed by the impact, the hearing was told. But Captain Vaid found himself able to swim out of the rapidly sinking aircraft.

"Once we hit the water the helicopter seemed to slow down and stop 10 to 15 feet below the surface."

"I could see a big hole in the cockpit. I could see the sunlight and tried to swim out towards it. I had the im-

pression it was right in front of me."

He was one of only two survivors from the crash, the worst in civilian helicopter history.

The aircraft was flying from the Brent oilfield to Sumburgh Airport in Shetland.

The only passenger to survive was Mr Eric Morrass, aged 20, of Henderson Drive, Kintore, Aberdeen, a trainee technician with Shell.

He told the inquiry: "It all happened so quickly there was very little any of them could do to prepare themselves. I don't know how but my training came back to me and I just fell back on what I had been taught about checking my seatbelt and zipping up my survival suit."

"The next thing I remember is bobbing to the surface."

Mr Morrass suffered a broken wrist and nose, and severe cuts and bruises in the crash.

Captain Vaid said that before the accident he was in the right-hand seat of the twin-engine Chinook.

Fifteen miles from the airport they were at 1,000 feet and Sumburgh radar handed

British International Chinook

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over to the control tower, who gave clearance to land.

He said he became aware in the cockpit of an increasing whining noise. He and the co-pilot thought it might be a heater fan turning on and off or a part of the fan blade that had broken.

The noise lasted only 15 to 30 seconds before there was a loud bang and the helicopter went out of control.

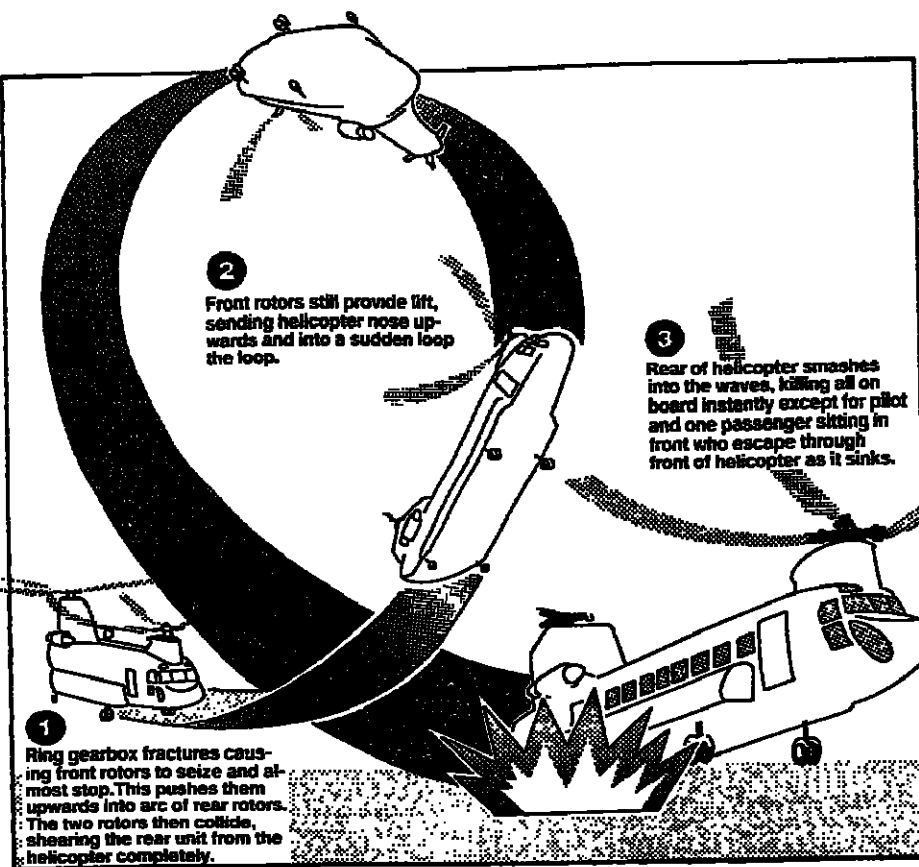
It is now known that a modification to the gearbox below the forward rotor had led to an unforeseen and rapid corrosion which tore the bevelled ring gear apart, jamming the rotor and sending the helicopter into an uncontrollable loop before smashing itself to pieces.

Boeing, the makers of the aircraft, is not giving evidence at the inquiry and that has led to controversy among oil rig workers' unions.

Members are still refusing to fly Chinooks even though they have now been shown to be safe.

But Boeing is to face a series of court actions in the United States alleging negligence.

The inquiry is expected to last two weeks.



Jury directed to clear mother on Kimberley killing charge

By Michael Horsnell

Mrs Pauline Carille was yesterday cleared of killing her daughter, Kimberley, aged four.

On the fifth day of the trial at the Central Criminal Court, Mr Justice Steyn directed the jury to find Mrs Pauline Carille not guilty of murder or manslaughter.

But Mr Nigel Hall, aged 24, the girl's stepfather, still faces a charge of murder, and both face additional charges of grievous bodily harm, wounding, assault and cruelty. All the charges are denied.

Yesterday Mrs Carille frequently broke down as she accused the man with whom she lives of beating and kicking Kimberley, who weighed 24lbs when she died in June last year.

Mrs Carille, the mother of four other children, said she wanted to get help for Kimberley but was afraid she would be blamed and all the children would be taken from her.

During the last three weeks of her life at the family's council flat on the Ferriar estate, Kidbrooke, south-east London, Kimberley was so badly bruised and injured that

her mother said she could not bear to look at her in the bath.

She said of Mr Hall: "He had an uncontrollable temper and frightened the children. I was frightened of him... when I wanted to go and get something done for Kimberley he said the police would say I had done it as well."

Kimberley had told her that she wanted to die to be reunited with her father, who died when she was a baby. Mrs Carille said that she married her first husband, Raymond, in August 1981. But he died in 1982.

In September 1983 she married David Carille, but she said her second husband took drugs and used to beat her. She also alleged that she was forced by him to commit criminal acts. She was jailed for six months for theft in 1983. Her children were taken into voluntary care.

In April 1985 she obtained a divorce but was on the run from her former husband who she said threatened to kill her. She set up home with Nigel Hall in south-east London in October 1985 when her children were returned to her. The trial continues today.



Captain Pusht Vaid, who piloted the helicopter



Mr Eric Morrass, the only passenger to survive

Portfolio Gold—Expelled diplomat may return

A retired diplomat and a housewife share the Portfolio Gold competition prize of £4,000.

With his American wife, Eve, Mr Patrick Craig, aged 74, of Blundell Road, Iwerston, Devon, a reader of *The Times* for 58 years, is planning a trip to Spain or Hungary, from which he was expelled in 1953.

Mr Craig, a diplomat for 35 years who served Britain in Rome, Milan, Detroit, Singapore, Budapest and Turin, said: "I am absolutely delighted to have won."

Mrs Jacqueline Schofield, aged 50, a housewife of Headley, Newbury, Berkshire, said she was playing the competition for her father, Mr Dennis Boscack, aged 77, a retired pianist, of St Anne's, Lancashire, who is holidaying in Spain.

Readers can obtain a Portfolio Gold card by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Portfolio Gold,
The Times,
Blackburn,
BB1 6AJ.



Mr Patrick Craig: a reader of *The Times* for 58 years.

Jail ends the reign of terror by Chelsea's soccer thugs

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

Five Chelsea football supporters who waged years of organized terror—arousing "shame, disgrace and fear" among innocent fans—were sentenced to a total of 38 years in prison at the Inner London Crown Court yesterday.

Two of them, key figures in a violent organization calling itself the Chelsea Headhunters, each received 10 years. One, Terence Last, was told by the judge he had been a "tinpot leader" whose arrogance knew no bounds.

Last, identified as the "field commander" for the organization, stood with his head bowed as Judge Shindler, QC, told him he might appear meek but close to the surface lay a "seething cauldron of violence" which could be released at will.

Last and three other men were convicted last week of conspiracy to cause fighting and affray. Last was also convicted of causing an affray. The fifth man was convicted of causing affray, assaulting a policeman and resisting arrest.

Addressing all five men, trapped by a police undercover operation last year, the judge said: "The traditional British game of professional soccer has attracted as camp



Last, described by the judge as a "tinpot leader"

followers some of the nastiest, most vicious men to whom violence seems to be a way of life."

"As a result of this evil conspiracy", the judge said, "many people were badly hurt, some scarred for life, absolutely petrified and terrified by horrific experiences that may be with some of them for the rest of their lives."

Sentencing Last, aged 24, from Bow, east London, a filing clerk in a London law firm, the judge said he had kept a meticulous diary of attacks over the years.

Dealing with Stephen

Hickmott, aged 31, a self-employed courier, of Tunbridge Wells, Kent, the judge said he was another principal ringleader who kept a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings on violence.

Douglas Welsh, aged 23, a labourer, from Crawley, Sussex, was acquitted of the conspiracy charge, but at Wembley last year during fighting he was heard to shout "kill the Bill" as police were attacked.

He was given six years for offences including attacking a policeman.

Vincent Drake, aged 23, a painter, from Brixton, south London, received seven years for the conspiracy.

Dale Green, aged 25, a former naval cook who served in the Falklands campaign, was given five years. He led an attack on a coach of football supporters.

The judge praised the work of the police investigation called Operation Own Goal.

Sixteen Millwall supporters, charged with organized violence, were committed to stand trial at the Central Criminal Court when they appeared at Lambeth yesterday.

Swansong of a choirmaster

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Mr Simon Preston, organist and Master of Chorists at Westminster Abbey, is leaving the abbey later this year partly as a result of a gradual change in music policy towards more modern settings of the liturgy, the Rev Alan Luff, the abbey's Precentor and Sacrist, said yesterday.

Since 1981 the abbey has used one of the modern versions of the Church of England service of Holy Communion, the Alternative Services Book, which it has proved difficult to combine with classical settings of the Latin rite by Haydn, or Mo-

zart, or sixteenth century composers such as Palestrina, Tallis and Byrd.

Mr Luff, who is responsible to the dean and chapter for music in the abbey, said that Mr Preston, who has achieved a world reputation as an organist and choral conductor, preferred those classical forms to music specially written for the new Anglican liturgy.

He said: "I am sure Tallis and Byrd would be clapping Simon. They based their music on Latin rather than English texts."

He added: "The Anglican music which exists for the

ASB is not of a very high quality."

The opportunity to write or commission new music will be "tremendously exciting to the right man", he said.

Mr Preston has given notice that he wishes to leave in October and the abbey has already advertised for a successor although no shortlist has yet been drawn up.

Relations between Mr Preston and the abbey authorities remain cordial, and there had been no "flaming row", Mr Luff said.

Technology centres: 2

Japan creates science cities

For the past six years, Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry has been supervising the creation of Technopolis, a national network of "research cities" designed to "become the centres of scientific and technological research for the next century."

The chief aim is to do on a national scale what the Science City initiative, launched by a group of high-technology entrepreneurs from London's South Bank Technopark, is trying to do for London alone: ensure that the benefits of the new industries are fed back to other parts of the country, where they are most needed.

High-technology manufacturing plants have been encouraged to leave the main cities and relocate in the regions. Local companies

In the second of two articles, Robert Matthews looks at how the Japanese have committed themselves to ensuring that the benefits of using new technology in industry are fed back to the benefit of the country.

benefit by being introduced to new techniques and economic expansion takes place across the country, rather than in the main conurbations.

The programme was beginning to get into its stride when the yen abruptly shot up against the dollar. Suddenly, Japanese companies wanted to set up production facilities out of Japan altogether.

That served further to underline the importance of Technopolis to Japan's industrial future. The government acted swiftly, cutting interest rates, offering low-interest loans, relaxing regulatory con-

trols and increasing public works spending.

Dataquest, the American analyst, calculated that each of the 26 local authorities with Technopolis sites attracted about £64 million in public and private investment last year, a total of £1.7 billion.

Compared to Technopolis, the support received by British science parks has been paltry. It is estimated that about £150 million has been invested, chiefly by local authorities, government development agencies and academic institutions. The private sector has only recently begun to show much interest.



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Walker will speak to UDM

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, announced during Commons question time that he would be addressing the annual conference of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers.

Mr Robert Adley (Christchurch, C) welcomed this as an excellent news, describing it as "stunning proof of one nation when representatives of working miners get around to inviting a Conservative Secretary of State to address their annual conference".

Only the Conservative Party could have released the miners from the bondage of the National Union of Mineworkers. Mr Walker said that he welcomed the opportunity to address the conference of these miners who kept to the tradition of only having industrial action after a ballot. These miners had voted overwhelmingly in their ballot not to strike and they had shown great courage in continuing to work.

Women 'have been betrayed'

Denying a charge by Mr Tony Banks (Newham North West, Lab) that the Government had betrayed women as it had betrayed all other categories of society, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Civil Service, said that the proportion of women now employed by public bodies was 19 per cent, and with the appointments made to the public appointments unit last autumn, far more women were coming forward. The Government would continue to support means of increasing the number of women able to serve in public life.

Jobs created in pit areas

The Government had so far created 16,641 job opportunities in coal mining areas, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, told a Labour MP during Commons questions.

By the time the £40 million allocated for the purpose had been spent, 25,000 jobs would have been created. That was an outstanding record.

Insulation work praised

The work of Community Insulation Projects was described as a "staggering achievement" by Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, when he told MPs during questions that 500,000 homes had been insulated.

Oxbridge bias is denied

The Civil Service Commission is reviewing the effectiveness of existing procedures for recruitment to the Civil Service and is developing improved procedures, Mr Richard Lacey, Minister for the Civil Service, said at question time.

He denied a suggestion by Mr Martin Bradburn (Nottingham South, C) that there was a bias towards "Oxbridge". The number of Oxbridge graduates recruited to the high-flying parts of the Civil Service had declined, he said, from 75 per cent in 1982 to 46 per cent in 1986.

Jury nobbling angers peers

Lord Denning, the former Master of the Rolls, called for the law to be changed to prevent the "vicious practice" of jury nobbling.

During question time, when many peers expressed concern about access to a list of names and addresses of jury members, Lord Denning said that friends and relatives of an accused also had the right to inspect the list.

Space cash

The Government is at present considering proposals for its future funding put forward by the British National Space Centre, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, said in a written reply. The centre's purpose is to produce a coherent national space plan.

Rate penalties for Scots councils which overspend

The Government is to impose financial penalties on Scottish local authorities which have budgeted to spend more than laid down in Government guidelines, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, announced in a statement to the Commons.

Mr Rifkind said: Local authorities in Scotland have budgeted to spend £122.1 million, or 3.7 per cent over guidelines in 1987-88, and have determined rates which will, on average, increase domestic rate bills by 15 per cent. For ratepayers in some areas, the increase is much higher. This is disappointing and unsatisfactory.

The rate-support grant settlement was a generous one intended to allow local authorities generally to maintain real levels of spending without substantial rate increases. But too many authorities have planned for quite unacceptable levels of growth.

After consultation with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, I have therefore decided that, in order to encourage those authorities with planned overspenders to reconsider their budgets, there will be grant penalties for overspending on a tariff which starts at grant loss of 70 per cent of overspend, rising to 120 per cent for a 2.5 per cent overspend. Above 2.5 per cent the rate of penalty increases to 140 per cent for a 3 per cent overspend and then to 175 per cent for a 3.5 per cent overspend or above.

The rate of increase between each of these points is even. On the basis of planned expenditure, the total penalty will be £202 million, though penalties will subsequently be adjusted in the light of actual expenditure, and it is therefore open to authorities to reduce their liability to penalty, or to recover penalties completely, by reducing their expenditure. I hope that many authorities will do so, and it is to assist them in doing so that I am making this early announcement of our intention.

I am pleased to note that for 1986-87, 40 authorities have provided outturns within guidelines, and a number of authorities who planned to spend over guidelines have reduced their expenditure on a number of items. As a result, some £28 million in grant penalties levied in 1986-87 will be returned to the authorities concerned.

I am today laying the necessary

Rate-Support Grant Order in respect of grant reductions in 1987-88 and repayments for 1986-87. A circular is being sent to all local authorities giving them the details.

Grant penalties will apply to all authorities planning to overspend. I have also considered the particular problems facing ratepayers in the areas of those authorities which are planning the most substantial expenditure excesses over guideline.

As a result I have decided to initiate action in terms of Section 5 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1966, in respect of Lothian Regional Council, Clackmannan District Council, and the City of Edinburgh District Council on the grounds that their planned expenditure

down, at 3.7 per cent — but the penalty was up, at £202 million.

The Edinburgh and Clackmannan authorities would have no rate support grant at all. Lothian would lose £51 million.

If they cut their budgets and planned spending according to Government instructions, would Mr Rifkind adjust their general penalty then, or would they have to wait?

If these penalties were fully executed, they would bring down rate-support grant from 55.6 per cent to a new low of about 50 per cent — part of a long, dreary process of seeing rate-support grant a head fall by 11 per cent overall from its 1979-80 level.

He accused the Government of deliberately wanting to shift the burden of local services from the Exchequer to the ratepayer.

Mr Rifkind said that Mr Dewar had overlooked the Government's most generous RSG provision, which had been agreed by no change in grant percentage, compared with previous years.

Local authorities had often pressed for this statement to be made at the earliest stage (Labour interruptions). For Mr Dewar to say that it was, showed how difficult it was to please him.

As for the comparison between penalties this year and last year, Mr Dewar should remember that the Government had increased local authorities' public expenditure provision by 9.5 per cent.

The guidelines had taken account of their budgets, increases for inflation, the teachers' pay settlement and so on.

Sir Russell Johnston, for the Alliance, said that the announcement would be seen as a blatant bribe designed to save the seats of ministers and ex-ministers. His action would cause chaos and lead to drastic cuts in services.

Mr Rifkind said that the Government was prepared to take action to assist ratepayers and to deal with excessive and unreasonable expenditure by local authorities and for Sir Russell to suggest any other motive was unworthy of him. Those who had made predictions of chaos resulting from selective action in the past had ended up with egg on their faces.

He condemned as "particularly vindictive" the fact that Government penalties had increased by 62 per cent.

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Ranks of familiar faces thin

Whoever wins the election, the complexion of the next Parliament will be changed significantly by the disappearance of many familiar faces.

The highest number of MPs for more than 50 years — 85 at the last count — have announced they will not stand. In 1983 a total of 77 MPs stood down.

There is also an exceptionally large batch of former ministers leaving the Commons, notably on the Conservative side, which will pose a dilemma for whoever is Prime Minister in the dissolution honours list after the election.

Of the total, 42 are Conservative, 40 Labour, two Liberal and one Scottish Nationalist. Two further Labour MPs who announced their retirement have since died. They were Mr John Silkin, who had been talked of as a possible leader of the Labour peers, and Mr Harry Gourlay.

Sir James Callaghan, the former Prime Minister, heads Labour's retirement list, but the party will also lose such stalwarts as Mr Jack Dorman, Dame Judith Hart, Mr Roy Mason, Miss Joan Maynard, Mrs Renée

Short, Mr Ian Mikardo and Mr Ernest Armstrong.

A total of six Labour MPs, including Mr Michael Cocks, also fell foul of the deselection process.

But the biggest impact is likely to be on the Conservative benches where a wide swathe of the party's elder statesmen and "knights of the shires" are stepping down.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher is losing two of her present members of the Cabinet — Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, and Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General.

A further nine former Conservative Cabinet Ministers will go: Sir Keith Joseph, Mr James Prior, Mr Francis Pym, Sir Humphrey Atkins, Mr Geoffrey Rippon, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Mr Peter Rees and Mr Mark Carls.

The two Liberals retiring are Mr Richard Wainwright (Colne Valley, 3,146 maj) and Mr Stephen Ross (Isle of Wight, 3,503 maj). Mr Donald Stewart is stepping down as Scottish Nationalist MP for the Western Isles (3,712 maj).

CONSERVATIVE MPs RETIRING

Seat	Majority	%	Runner-up
Sir Humphrey Atkins	13,506	26.3	SDP/AI
Sir Frederic Bennett	6,555	13.4	L/AI
Mr Keith Best	1,684	4.2	PL C
Mr Timothy Brinton	8,463	15.3	Lab
Sir Paul Bryan	17,420	32.9	L/AI
Mr Edmund Bulmer	8,177	15.9	L/AI
Sir Adam Butler	17,284	19.5	L/AI
Mr Mark Carlisle	6,465	11.9	Lab
Sir Walter Clegg	14,811	31.5	SDP/AI
Mr Eric Cockeram	11,303	24.0	SDP/AI
Viscount Cranborne	15,098	30.1	SDP/AI
Mr David Crouch	14,742	29.2	L/AI
Sir Edward du Cann	12,567	23.6	SDP/AI
Mr Nicholas Edwards	9,356	17.8	Lab
Sir Reginald Eyre	9,373	21.8	Lab
Sir Edward Gardner	17,102	38.6	L/AI
Sir Michael Havers	11,546	24.9	L/AI
Sir Paul Hawkins	14,910	29.0	SDP/AI
Sir Philip Holland	14,664	28.2	SDP/AI
Mr Patrick Jenkin	14,354	28.4	L/AI
Sir Keith Joseph	8,895	19.5	SDP/AI
Sir Anthony Kershaw	11,714	19.5	L/AI
Sir Kenneth Lewis	11,756	24.0	SDP/AI
Sir Carol Mather	15,912	35.2	L/AI
Sir Peter Mills	12,351	23.0	L/AI
Mr Christopher Murphy	12,246	21.2	SDP/AI
Mr Tom Norman	9,882	18.4	Lab
Mrs Sally Oppenheim	12,537	22.3	L/AI
Sir John Osborne	11,774	22.2	L/AI
Sir John Page	11,021	20.8	SDP/AI
Sir Ian Percival	5,039	9.9	L/AI
Sir Reginald Prentice	13,136	26.6	SDP/AI
Mr James Pym	14,238	24.4	Lab
Sir Francis Pym	14,782	27.4	SDP/AI
Mr Peter Rees	9,220	17.5	L/AI
Mr Geoffrey Rippon	8,308	20.0	L/AI
Mr Norman St John-Stevens	378	0.6	L/AI
Mr Peter Thomas	6,433	18.3	L/AI
Sir William von Strauss	15,998	28.8	L/AI
Sir Patrick Wall	13,865	25.0	L/AI
Mr John Watson	15,046	28.0	L/AI
Sir John Wells	7,226	13.9	L/AI

LABOUR MPs RETIRING

Seat	Majority	%	Runner-up
Mr Leo Abse	8,285	19.0	L/AI
Mr Ernest Armstrong	6,356	14.8	C
Mr Norman Atkinson	9,396	21.8	C
Mr Gordon Bager	5,548	11.1	C
Mr Hugh Brown	15,385	49.5	SDP/AI
Mr Robert Brown	2,556	5.1	C
Sir James Callaghan	2,276	5.4	C
Mr Ian Campbell	2,115	4.9	L/AI
Mr Lewis Carter-Jones	6,005	12.7	L/AI
Mr Michael Cocks	4,419	8.9	C
Mr Don Concannon	2,238	4.8	C
Mr Bernard Conlan	10,322	21.7	C
Mr James Craig	11,203	33.0	L/AI
Mr Jack Dorman	14,792	33.3	L/AI
Mr Robert Edwards	5,012	12.9	C
Mr Raymond Ellis	2,006	3.9	C
Mr John Forrester	8,203	15.4	C
Mr Reginald Freeman	4,834	12.4	C
Mr James Hamilton	17,894	42.2	C
Mr William Hamilton	7,794	19.8	L/AI
Mr Patrick Jenkin	360	0.8	C
Dame Judith Hart	4,866	10.6	C
Dr Mark Hughes	1,973	4.0	SDP/AI
Mr Ronald Lewis	71	0.2	C
Mr George Mackenzie	9,126	20.5	L/AI
Mr Roy Mason	14,173	38.8	C
Miss Joan Maynard	15,209	34.5	L/AI
Mr Hugh McCartney	7,715	20.0	SDP/AI
Mr Michael McGuire	10,876	21.3	C
Mr Ian Mikardo	5,881	12.2	L/AI
Dr Maurice Miller	4,346	9.2	SDP/AI
Mr George Park	8,775	18.9	C
Mr Laure Pavitt	10,519	26.4	C
Mr Ernest Roberts	8,545	23.4	C
Mrs Renée Short	214	0.5	C
Dr Roger Thomas	1,154	2.2	C
Mr Stanley Thorne	6,978	15.0	C
Mr Thomas Torney	110	0.2	C
Mr James White	11,332	31.8	C
Mr Alec Woodall	14,190	38.1	L/AI

* Denotes de-selected by constituency Labour Party

Pact in hunt for balance of power

By Richard Evans
Political Correspondent

Nationalists in Scotland and Wales are hoping that a pre-election pact and a close result on June 11 will catapult them back into the political limelight which they enjoyed a decade ago.

In their wildest dreams neither Plaid Cymru nor the Scottish Nationalist Party expect to repeat their success of the mid-1970s when they had more than a dozen MPs. But they are genuinely confident of at least doubling their present quota of two MPs each and hope the failure of Labour or the Conservatives to gain an overall majority will provide them with the perfect political opening.

An ideal general election result for the nationalists would enable them, with eight or so MPs, to hold the balance of power and make a Labour administration dependent on their support.

It is as much past experience of opportunities missed as well as preparing for the possibility of a hung Parliament which has led the two nationalist parties to combine forces and, in the words of Mr Gordon Wilson, SNP MP for Dundee East, "sacrifice a principle or two in the process".

Mr Dafydd Wigley, Plaid Cymru MP for Caernarfon, said: "In 1974 to '79 we held the balance of power but we didn't go in with a coherent strategy. We didn't know how to use our position. We are more experienced now and don't intend to make the same mistakes. We would like the opportunity to arise".

Apart from jointly manning a London office, SNP and Plaid Cymru have also drawn up a list of joint demands should they be involved in political power-sharing. Top of the shopping list is the establishment of a Scottish Convention, charged with preparing the powers and constitutional framework for a Scottish Parliament, and a timetable for progress towards an elected Welsh Assembly.

Both parties are adamant that they will not entertain a deal with the Conservatives.

But hopes of a slice of power and elected assemblies will remain pipe dreams unless both parties increase their Westminster power base.

With the retirement of Mr Donald Stewart, one of the SNP's parliamentary veterans, the party faces a tricky task in holding on to Western Isles in spite of defending a theoretically safe majority.

In a constituency where personal factors play an exaggerated role, the Social Democratic Party, which has a commanding grip on north-west Scotland, is likely to pose the biggest threat in spite of finishing only fourth in 1983.

Mr Wilson is unlikely to face such difficulties in holding on to Dundee East.

The party has three Conservative-held seats of Angus East, Banff and Buchan and Moray as its prime targets. It is also in with a shout at North Tayside, Perth and Kinross, Galloway and Argyll and Bute.

The SNP has overcome the internal dissension which handicapped it in 1983 and changed its policy on the EEC in favour of an independent Scotland staying in the Community. Opinion polls show that one in three Scots now believes in Scotland having full independence, with 80 per cent wanting a Scottish parliament of some sort.

Mr Wilson said: "We will increase our number of seats and votes, there is no question about that. I believe we will win between five and nine seats".

The resurgence of independence has not been so obvious in Wales where Plaid Cymru will field candidates in all 38 constituencies.

With its two existing MPs, Mr Wigley and Mr Dafydd Ellis Thomas, MP for Merionnydd Nant Conwy, apparently safely ensconced, the party's biggest hope of winning a seat lies in Ynys Mon, where Mr Keith Best, the Tory MP, was forced to stand down for submitting multiple British Telecom share applications.

Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Plaid Cymru candidate, needs a 2 per cent swing to capture the seat, while Labour, which is represented by Mr Neil Kinnock's brother-in-law, would require the biggest swing for more than 20 years.

Cardiff, held by Plaid Cymru between 1966 and 1970 and 1974 and 1979, is its second big hope. While the Conservatives came second in the Labour-held seat last time, their vote in Wales's biggest dairy farming constituency is expected to suffer as the nationalists are hoping to take advantage.

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Parties alert • Britons abroad • Jenkins at risk

ELECTION 87 X

Jenkins heads list of those with all to lose on the swings

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Knife-edge elections are becoming a way of life for Mr Roy Jenkins, former leader of the SDP.

In a 1981 by-election he failed by a whisker to overturn a huge Labour majority in Warrington. In 1982 he won a sensational by-election by 2,038 votes over the Conservatives in Glasgow Hillhead. At the 1983 general election his majority was cut by Labour to just 1,164.

Mr Jenkins enters this general election knowing he is Labour's leading target in Scotland. At 66 and having served 33 years at Westminster, three as Chancellor and four as Home Secretary, Mr Jenkins could with justification feel entitled to a safer seat but it is not to be.

Labour, fired by the prospect of displacing the Alliance's elder statesman and one of its own defectors, are fielding against him Mr George Galloway, the high-profile head of War on Want.

Whether Mr Jenkins lives to fight yet another day appears to depend on how many Conservative voters in this middle-class constituency decide to vote for him to keep out Labour.

Mr Jenkins is not the only big political name whose future hangs in the balance.

The May local election results will have shaken Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. His 1979 majority in South-end West was halved by the Alliance to 8,033 in 1983, and he has now seen the Conservatives lose control of the town council for the first time ever, after a spectacular run of Liberal gains.

Nor will the results have comforted Mr Chris Patten, Minister for Overseas Development, who saw the Conservatives lose control of Bath city council and whose majority over an eager Alliance in that city is 5,304.

Both men, however, have majorities of more than 10 per cent. Analysis of the 77 seats where Conservatives were returned with a majority of less than 10 per cent in 1983 suggests that a moderate national swing against the Conservatives could deprive Mrs Margaret Thatcher of another Cabinet minister, two more ministers and two up-and-coming whips.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, has a majority of only 4,309 in Edinburgh Pentlands. His Labour opponent is Mr Mark Lazarowicz, the personable

young leader of Edinburgh district council.

A recent poll showed Conservative support in Scotland down 3.5 per cent from 1983, but the feeling is that Mr Rifkind should scrape through. He benefits from a divided anti-Tory vote and has been a good constituency MP.

Mr Giles Shaw, Minister for Industry, should be safe with a 5,314 majority over the Alliance in Pudsey but Mr Michael Ancram, the junior Scottish Office minister, has only a 3,655 majority over the Alliance in Edinburgh South and will be in deep trouble if the Labour vote crumbles.

The two whips who will not be sleeping easy are Mr Gerry Malone, the Aberdeen South MP who has a 3,581 majority over Labour, and Mr Francis Maude, whose majority over Labour in Warwickshire North is 2,585 or 4.8 per cent.

For Mr Neil Kinnock, the consequences of any further drop in Labour's vote since 1983 would be far more severe. Sixty-two Labour MPs have majorities of less than 10 per cent. They include four senior members of his shadow cabinet, a junior whip, and 11 other frontbench spokesmen.

At first sight, the Labour



A future in the balance for Mr Roy Jenkins (left), a Labour target in Glasgow Hillhead, and Mr Paul Channon, facing a string of Liberal gains in local elections in his constituency.

name most obviously threatened is Dr John Cunningham, shadow environment secretary, whose majority over the Conservatives in Copeland, Cumbria, is just 1,837. He has the misfortune of representing a party pledged to phasing out nuclear power in a constituency that contains Sellafield.

Mr Bryan Gould, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, has a majority of 2,997 in Dagenham; Mr Michael Meacher, the shadow health secretary, a majority of only 3,180 over the Conservatives in Oldham West; and Mr Derek Foster, Labour's chief whip, a majority of 4,306 over the Conservatives in Bishop Auckland.

The May local results sug-

gest that Mr Jeff Rooker, Labour's high-flying housing spokesman, faces a tough fight to hold off the Conservatives in Birmingham Perry Barr, despite a 7,402 majority.

Mr Peter Snape, the humorous Labour transport spokesman, is defending a majority of 298 over the Conservatives in West Bromwich East and heads the long list of other endangered Labour spokesmen.

Not all political bigwigs are fighting to hold seats. Some are attempting to gain them.

Mrs Shirley Williams and Mr Bill Rodgers, members of the SDP's original "gang of four", are hoping to overturn Tory majorities of 5,968 and 11,522 in Cambridge and Milton Keynes respectively.

Mr Ken Livingstone, former leader of the GLC, Mr David Blunkett, leader of Sheffield city council, and Joan Raddock, former chair of CND, are hoping to build on existing Labour majorities in Brent East, Sheffield Brightside and Deptford.

Mr Jenkins apart, there is one other veteran politician fighting for survival. Mr Enoch Powell won last year's by-election after resigning over the Anglo-Irish agreement by 1,842 over the SDLP.

Mr Powell, an MP for 37 remarkably unorthodox years, celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday five days after the election. Whether it will be a double celebration is a moot point.

Special Branch on full alert after shootings

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Reporter

A special ministerial protection office within Scotland Yard's Special Branch moved into top gear yesterday as the date for the general election was announced.

In the next few days the office will begin coordinating the extraordinary security exercise needed to get the Prime Minister, her ministers and other political figures safely through a month of intensive political campaigning.

The election announcement comes a few days after the Provisional IRA threatened to seek revenge from the Prime Minister and her ministers for the death of eight men at Loughgall, Co Armagh, last week.

There has been no known evidence of a threat from Middle Eastern terrorists but Britain now holds more convicted Arab terrorists than ever before.

Against that background the police will have to cope with big public meetings, demonstrations and the probability of the now traditional walkabout.

Lessons learnt from the Brighton hotel bombing in 1984, when five died during the Conservative Party conference, will be put in hand. The police will want to search halls thoroughly, reduce forewarning of the attendance of possible targets and ensure there are tight security checks.

Extra officers yesterday began joining the unit of 70 Special Branch men at the Yard responsible for the protection of key political figures.

The office will be a link between ministerial offices, protection teams and staff among more than 1,000 provincial Special Branch officers responsible for local security during the campaigning.

Details of some possible political itineraries and venues are also being gathered. Police protection will be given to the leaders of the main opposition parties.

The Prime Minister routinely has a big Special Branch security team. The Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and his junior ministers also receive protection. Officers are also assigned to former prime ministers and other key former ministers.

Senior officers believe that the Provisional IRA and the INLA will find it difficult to mount attacks in mainland Britain at short notice or at a time when security will be high.

Parties on alert as the date is fixed

By Sheila Guma, Political Staff

Nearly 2,200 candidates are in place for the general election on June 11. The main political parties have been at an advanced state of readiness for some weeks and each has only a few candidates to nominate.

The Conservatives are lacking candidates in seven places at the last count — three in England and four in Scotland — out of a total of 650. Labour needs three more and the Alliance parties have a handful each of unselected seats and will be fighting all 633 seats in England, Scotland and Wales.

The empty Conservative places in England are in Doncaster Central (Lab maj 2,508); the Manchester Gorton seat of Mr Gerald Kaufman, the Shadow Home Secretary (Lab maj 9,965) and Tottenham (Lab maj 9,396).

In Scotland they still need candidates for Caithness and Sutherland (SDP/All maj 6,843); Clackmannan (Lab maj 9,639); Cumbernauld and Kilsyth (Lab maj 9,928) and Motherwell South (Lab maj 12,349).

Labour has not announced who will stand against Mrs Rosie Barnes, the Alliance MP, who snatched victory at Greenwich from Ms Deirdre Wood, the left-wing candidate in February. And no Labour candidate has yet been picked for Wirral West (Con maj 15,151) and Moray (Con maj 1,713).

Among the seats with no Alliance candidate are Denton and Redditch (Lab maj 5,125); Knowsley South (Lab maj 11,769); Westworth (Lab maj 15,935) and Manchester Central (Lab maj 18,485).

The Green Party, formerly the Ecology Party, so far has 120 candidates in place and the Communist Party 11 on its first list.

The Greens are concentrating on their main areas of support in the South-east, the West Country, the North-west and Scotland. In 1983 they could manage an average of only 1.1 per cent of the vote, rising to 2.9 per cent, 1,161 votes, in Ogmore.

The Scottish National Party is fighting all 72 seats in Scotland and Plaid Cymru is fighting all 38 seats in Wales.

The National Front said last night it is unlikely to field any candidates in a June general election because of internal wranglings within the party and the increased costs.

The prospect of an early polling day has caught it in chaos after a split last year in the national organization. As its leaders are still licking their wounds, it has been left to the 80 branches to make their own decisions and fund their own election campaigns.

Added to that is the change in the electoral law which means the party losing £500 for every candidate who polls less than 5 per cent.

In 1983 the party's 62 candidates polled on average only 1 per cent of the vote, with the highest, 3.7 per cent, in the Labour-held seat of Newham South. It fought on a manifesto calling for an end to a multi-racial society in Britain and the repatriation of coloured immigrants, their descendants and dependants.

The race is also on to pick prospective parliamentary candidates for the few remaining vacant seats.

More than 1.2 million more voters will be taking part in this election compared with 1983. In 1979 the electorate was about 42.2 million; for 1987 it will be about 43.4 million. Both figures allow for those on the electoral register too young to vote in June.

Britons abroad in no rush to register

By Our Political Staff

Britons on holiday or living abroad on polling day will have the vote for the first time on June 11.

The widening of the franchise was expected to benefit the Conservatives. But, in spite of a drive by the party to attract absent voters, only about 10,000 of the 500,000 Britons overseas have registered.

Representation of the the People Act 1985 gives the vote to those who have been overseas for up to five years. Those on holiday on June 11 have until noon on May 22 to apply for a postal vote. The Act also entitles people who cannot get to the polling booths because of sudden illness to vote by post, provided they apply by June 3.

The system of deposits, with the aim of deterring the spate of fringe and "loony" candidates standing in recent elections, has also changed. In 1983 a failed candidate lost £150 unless winning more than 12 per cent of the vote. But in this election any candidate polling less than 5 per cent will lose a £500 deposit.

In 1985 the Election (Northern Ireland) Act was brought in to make it more difficult for

people to vote twice or impersonate others at the polls. Voters will now have to produce a driving licence, passport or similar document.

The Government tabled an Order in Parliament on June 7, raising slightly the limits for candidates' expenses in line with inflation. Candidates found guilty of certain practices, including bribery, giving food, drink, entertainment or provisions to influence the elector, undue influence and illegal payments, can be sent to jail and have their election declared void.

Each candidate is entitled to post free of charge one communication to each household in the constituency so long as it does not weigh more than 57 grammes (two ounces). All other expenses must come within the £3,370 ceiling, plus 2.9p per elector in the boroughs and 3.8p per elector in the counties.

Anyone other than the candidate or agent who puts out material promoting that candidate is also guilty of corrupt practice. Although a blurred and untested area of electoral law, that could catch out those engaging in "tactical voting".

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The Klaus Barbie trial: city of Lyons confronts the nightmare of its wartime past

Defence lawyer claims he has won a political battle already

From Michael McCarthy in Lyons

A few hours before the trial of Klaus Barbie opened here yesterday afternoon, his defence lawyer, the flamboyant radical Maître Jacques Vergès, smilingly told *The Times*: "I have already won."

He did not mean that he has secured the acquittal of his client from the "crimes against humanity" with which he is charged, but that his widely publicized undertaking of the former Nazi policeman's defence has won him a political battle to make France begin to face the moral responsibility for what he claims it did during the war in Algeria.

Many people in France will be outraged, thinking that the very idea of introducing Algeria into the Barbie trial is irrelevant and merely a ploy to debate it. But Algeria was the first passionate cause of the 62-year-old half-Vietnamese Parisian barrister, defender of urban guerrillas and passionate anti-colonialist. As a

Vergès says, will admit to having given people injections of "camphor oil" to make them talk, and Jacques Fastré, a 52-year-old former army sergeant, who personally witnessed torture.

The lawyer believes his case has already been made. "An opinion poll published three weeks ago showed that 67 per cent of the French population now believe that there were 'crimes against humanity' committed in Algeria, too, and that those responsible should be punished," he said. "On the political level, I have won."

The other plank of Maître Vergès's attack is to discredit the reputation of the Resistance fighters Barbie pursued.

He says he has unearthed a document sent from one Vichy French official to another at the end of March 1943, describing the entire organization of the French Resistance. He believes it is the draft of a celebrated report on the Resistance sent by Kaltenbrunner, a top SS official, to Ribbentrop, the German Foreign Minister, a few months later.

Five of the nine witnesses will testify about Algeria

Marxist lawyer he defended many members of the Front de Libération Nationale (FLN) and eventually married one of them.

A key part of his defence of Barbie will be to shift the focus of the trial from German-occupied France to French-occupied Algeria. His thesis is simple: if the Germans tortured in one, the French later tortured in the other. Morally, what is the difference?

"Why are the German atrocities in France crimes which must never be forgotten after 40 years, while French atrocities in Algeria are under amnesty after 20," he asked.

As he prepared for the trial yesterday, he described the evidence he will be presenting in support of his contention that France, as well as Germany, used torture in wartime. He will focus on the cases of Yacoub, an Algerian hotel owner in Paris who disappeared after being arrested in October 1961, and Lakhdar-Toumi, a landowner in Algeria who was allegedly tortured and killed by the Army during the war.

Yacoub, he says, who lived in the Arab tenement quarter of Paris, *La Goutte d'Or*, was arrested and taken to the eighteenth arrondissement's police station, then taken to the Hôtel-Dieu hospital and never seen again. Lakhdar-Toumi was allegedly killed after being tortured by a French Army lieutenant as a suspected sympathizer of the FLN.

Maître Vergès has summoned as witnesses Yacoub's daughter, Mme Farida Yacoub, and M Lakhdar-Toumi's wife, Suzanne, and company director son, Eddine, who all live in Paris.

In fact, five of the nine witnesses for Barbie's defence will testify about Algeria, the remaining two being a French male nurse who, Maître



German soldiers marching across a Lyons bridge during the Second World War occupation, in Klaus Barbie's days of power as a Gestapo chief in the French city where yesterday, left, he entered court to stand trial for crimes against humanity.

Unrepentant prisoner not seeking pity

From Michael McCarthy Lyons

Klaus Barbie was in poor health at the beginning of his trial yesterday but his mood was "not bad", according to his lawyer, Maître Jacques Vergès, who hinted that the "Butcher of Lyons" was, in particular, unrepentant.

The health of the former Gestapo captain, now aged 73, gave way a few weeks before he was expelled from Bolivia to France four years ago, after the deaths of his wife from cancer and his son in a hang-glider accident, and has steadily deteriorated. He has

had a prostate operation and has difficulty in walking and emptying his bladder.

He has a small cell in the St Joseph prison at Lyons, about 8ft square and containing a bed, a lavatory and a plank attached to the wall to serve as a desk, from which he is allowed out for half an hour twice a day to exercise in a 20ft square "cage" nearby.

He has the normal prison diet, but is unable to eat anything in the evening except some yoghurt and an orange. He is prescribed up to 20 pills a day, including sleeping pills. He has been reading the

voluminous French and foreign newspaper pre-trial accounts of his Gestapo career and is "very shocked because he is described as a butcher", Maître Vergès said.

"He is an old man in a very difficult and despairing position and he is very indignant about what is being said about him and what he is accused of. There are only the prosecution allegations and no defence."

Barbie has been insisting recently that he was "the darling of good society" during his time in Lyons, and that Cardinal Gerlier of Lyons

referred to him as "my good friend", Maître Vergès said, stressing he was not a persecutor of Jews but an intelligence officer working against the Resistance — a picture unlikely to be recognized by many of the 120-plus witnesses now preparing to testify against him.

Asked if his client was still a committed Nazi, the advocate said: "Of course he cannot have the same approach to the world as he did before 1945. But he is very proud and he doesn't want to appear to be asking for pity from what he calls 'the winners'."

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Zimbabwe hunt for mass killer

From Jan Raath Harare

Zimbabwean police and army units have launched an extensive manhunt for an army deserter they believe was responsible for the murder of four white farmers on Saturday night near the farming village of Somabula, 14 miles south-west of Gweru, in the Midlands province.

Sources said security authorities were convinced that the man responsible for killing three of the farmers — Mr Thys Laurens, aged about 40, Mr Glynn Williams, aged 48, and Mr Allan Dicks, aged 70 — is a non-political renegade with the *nom de guerre* of Gwasela, who shot dead his three victims with only eight rounds of automatic fire.

Gwasela and his small gang are said to have killed 69 people in an area running from Matabeleland North through to the south of the Midlands.

The sources said Gwasela, who has distant white forebears, was born in Silobela communal land near Gweru and served as a trooper in the Rhodesian Army until his desertion in 1983, three years after Zimbabwe's independence.

Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, yesterday condemned the "wanton slayings" of the farmers and promised that the Government security forces "will not rest until the bandits are captured and brought to book".

Relatives kept from air victims

Warsaw (Reuters) — The bodies of 183 people, killed when a Polish LOT airlines Ilyushin 62 plane crashed in the outskirts of Warsaw at the weekend, are too badly fragmented for relatives to try to identify them, medical sources said.

Families will not be allowed to see the remains, which are being examined at Warsaw's Institute of Forensic Medicine, but will be shown personal effects.

Sikh shot dead

Delhi (Reuters) — Jarnail Singh Halwara, the Sikh extremist said to have planned the killing of Punjab leader Harchand Singh Longowal two years ago, has been shot dead by police, the Press Trust of India reported.

Poles defect

Munich (Reuters) — Twenty Poles on a tour bus trip to Munich stayed behind when the bus returned to Poland and are expected to apply for political asylum.

Hostage move

Moscow (AFP) — The Soviet Union will comply with the 1979 International Convention on hostage-taking, Tass said.

Ball bomb

Marseilles (Reuters) — A bomb hidden in a boule, the metal ball used in the French game of petanque, exploded at a community centre, injuring three people.

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For further details please contact Alistair Allan.
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Part 2

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El Salvador faced with disaster as families flood back from the US

From Christopher Thomas, San Salvador

Salvadoreans are returning home, a forlorn procession of people dragging tattered suitcases and cardboard boxes stuffed with the meagre spoils of an illegal life in America.

They arrive in small numbers off every plane from Miami and San Francisco, a trickle that may become a devastating flood after a tough new US immigration law takes effect in less than three weeks.

They are a pathetic sight. Entire families, including old people and dazed children, are laden like pack horses as they struggle out of San Salvador airport into the hot, fetid air. Hundreds of thousands of others may follow over the next few years, and that would be nothing short of a national catastrophe.

All that awaits them is unemployment, poverty, a desperate shortage of land and housing, and an endless, demoralizing guerrilla war. What is more, their country does not want them back.

Some of the young men will be dragged into the Army or recruited by the left-wing guerrillas, but most "returnees" will waste away in hopeless villages or move into packed hovels in San Salvador.

These people are the fruit pickers, the cleaners, petrol pump attendants, maids and day labourers who send home millions of dollars a year from their illegal labours in the US, keeping hundreds of thousands of people out of the worst ravages of hunger and poverty.

The Central American University in San Salvador estimates that they send back \$1.3 billion (£774 million) a year, more than double the entire national budget and equivalent to half the gross national product. It has calculated that there are one million Salvadoreans in America, nearly a fifth of the country's population.

At least half arrived in the US after January 1982, making them ineligible for residency under the new immigration law. Father Segundo Morales, a Jesuit sociologist and human rights activist, said the return of only 100,000 Salvadoreans would be devastating.

He noted: "These people are used to having electricity, water, transportation, good food. Their return could provoke socio-political destabilization. Tensions could soar, degenerating into popular movements or anarchy."

The point is frequently made here that the returnees will be dissatisfied, angry and easily recruited by the guerrillas. They will add to the desperate overcrowding in San Salvador caused by the influx of refugees from the war-torn countryside and by last October's earthquake, which left 300,000 homeless.

Emigration is a traditional safety valve in El Salvador, where unemployment is 50 per cent. But a glance at the classified sections of the local newspapers demonstrates graphically that the outflow has abruptly slowed. There used to be columns of advertisements offering delivery to the Mexico-US border for \$800 per head. Now there are hardly any.

Many of those who previously took up the offer are horrendously in debt to money-lenders. People are not willing to take the risk any more.

It is now possible to get a flight from San Salvador to Mexico, which used to be fully booked weeks ahead by the guide agencies. The US Border Patrol issued its April figures last Friday showing a decline of up to 50 per cent in arrests of illegal aliens from Mexico over the previous month.

Heart man's 18 extra years

From Susan MacDonald, Paris

The world's longest-surviving heart transplant patient, M. Emmanuel Vitria, died in his home town of Marseilles yesterday, 18 years after he received the heart of a young soldier killed in a car crash.

Professor Raoul Monties, one of the two doctors who performed the transplant in 1968, said that M. Vitria, aged 67, had died peacefully from a respiratory problem which had led to cardiac weakness. Many people, said the professor, suffer from this ailment and it was hard to tell what part his heart played in his death.

M. Vitria had over the years become a symbol of hope for other heart-ailment sufferers and dedicated much of his time in campaigning for blood donors in Marseilles, where he worked in business. He was only the ninth heart transplant in the world and the second in France. It was performed just one year after the world's first transplant.

Although subjected to three injections a day and monthly check-ups, M. Vitria, known for his high spirits and optimism, loved bicycling and swimming. At a party last November to celebrate the anniversary of his transplant, he said: "I am called indestructible now."

M. Vitria was awarded the Legion of Honour in 1982. People in Marseilles would even come up and touch him for luck. He was married with three children.



M. Emmanuel Vitria, playing the southern French game of pétanque. An inspiration to other transplant patients, M. Vitria, who died yesterday, also loved to cycle and swim.

Unrest in Punjab

Gandhi to impose rule from Delhi

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi

The increasingly bitter terrorist campaign in the divided north Indian state of Punjab seems to be again forcing the central Government to suspend normal local democratic processes and impose rule from the centre.

The Government of Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the Prime Minister, is reported in yesterday's *Hindustan Times*, the capital's biggest-circulation newspaper, to have decided to impose presidential rule because of the repeated failure of the state government to deal with separatist extremists. Last month 100 people died at the hands of the Sikh gunmen, who are hoping to establish an independent country they call Khalistan, the Land of the Pure. In the past 24 hours another 18 deaths have been reported, including six extremists in clashes with police.

Mr Gandhi's ministers believe that members of the state ministry led by Mr Surjit Singh Barnala have links with the extremists, giving them shelter. An open quarrel between the widely respected state police chief, Mr Julio Ribeiro, and the state Finance Minister, Mr Balwant Singh, over just such accusations has been continuing in the papers.

Three letters from the central Home Minister, Mr Buta

Singh (also a Sikh), have been fired at Mr Surjit Singh during the past week, complaining about the deterioration in law and order and drawing his attention to the renewed exodus from Punjab by the minority Hindus.

Mr Gandhi's Government is also unhappy at the Punjab government's attitude to the recommendations of a judicial commission into the division of the state's river waters between it and its neighbours. The report, due to be tabled in Parliament shortly, is said to reject what the commissioner, Mr Justice Eradi, called Punjab's exaggerated claims. Before the report was prepared, Mr Surjit Singh agreed that the Eradi findings would be binding. Now his government has said they do not accept the award.

The imposition of presidential rule will be seen as a defeat for Mr Gandhi's policy of supporting a Sikh religious government in Punjab, and will no doubt give rise to complaints of oppression of Sikhs by the Hindu Government.

But the damage that the terrorists are doing to Mr Gandhi's image elsewhere in the country, as well as the real human need to limit the brutal effects of the campaign, outweigh these considerations.

Banks reluctant to foreclose in case land prices plunge

In Australia's rural crisis the farmers are most at risk, but as Stephen Taylor reports, in this final part of a series, other sectors are also watching the situation with alarm.

There is a simple reason why many Australian farmers who, to all intents and purposes are bankrupt, are still living on the land.

"It's the old story," said Mr Mick Charles, president of the Grain Producers' Association. "If you owe the bank \$Aus10,000 you've got a problem. If you owe \$Aus100,000 the bank's got a problem." Put another way, banks stand to lose more by foreclosing on their debtors than allowing them to stay put, at least for the time being.

Primary lending houses are owed more than \$Aus10,000 million (£4,273 million) by producers, and when secondary sources are taken into account the farm debt is probably well over \$Aus12,000 million.

Small wonder that there are many farmers who would be delighted to sell up to salvage something from the debris.

Australia's farm crisis Part 2

But few have been able to find buyers and the value of land is falling.

Mr Michael Tooth, president of the New South Wales Farmers' Association, said fear of sparking a general collapse of land prices - as occurred during the last important rural upheaval in Australia 50 years ago - has persuaded the banks to suspend foreclosures.

One executive at the State Bank of New South Wales says that bad publicity is another factor. "Farmers are just below mothers and war veterans in our iconography. Every time there is a foreclosure, the banks get a hostile reaction," he said. "You don't hear the same outcry when a business closes and a dozen people lose their jobs."

Nevertheless, executives are predicting a crunch in the final quarter of this year in which many "at risk" producers will be turned off their land. Already every bank in the country towns of New South Wales has problems. In Nyngan, one is said to have written off \$Aus30 million in bad debts. Another, in Moree, has 14 technically bankrupt farm customers.

China tries rainmaking to defeat forest fire

From Robert Grieves, Peking

Chinese firefighters yesterday were preparing to use aircraft to "seed" rainclouds to create a heavy rainfall that would put a huge forest fire that has out of control since last Wednesday in China's north-east province of Heilongjiang.

The fire, which has killed 142 people, left 31,000 homeless and destroyed 741,000 acres of timberland, began near the Sino-Soviet border.

Chinese reports said that more than 15,000 people, including 3,000 People's Liberation Army soldiers, were engaged in the blaze to prevent it from reaching Tahe, the capital of Heilongjiang.

"The fire is still spreading, but has been basically controlled in the Xiufeng forest, about 60 miles from Tahe," a fire official said. A later report said that the fire had been brought under partial control.

But last night Heilongjiang firefighters, operating out of a \$1.5 million (£898,200) control centre funded by Canada, were planning to send in aircraft to seed the few rain clouds that were forecast to gather in the area overnight. Aircraft from adjacent Jilin province were reported to have been called in to assist in the cloud-seeding operation.



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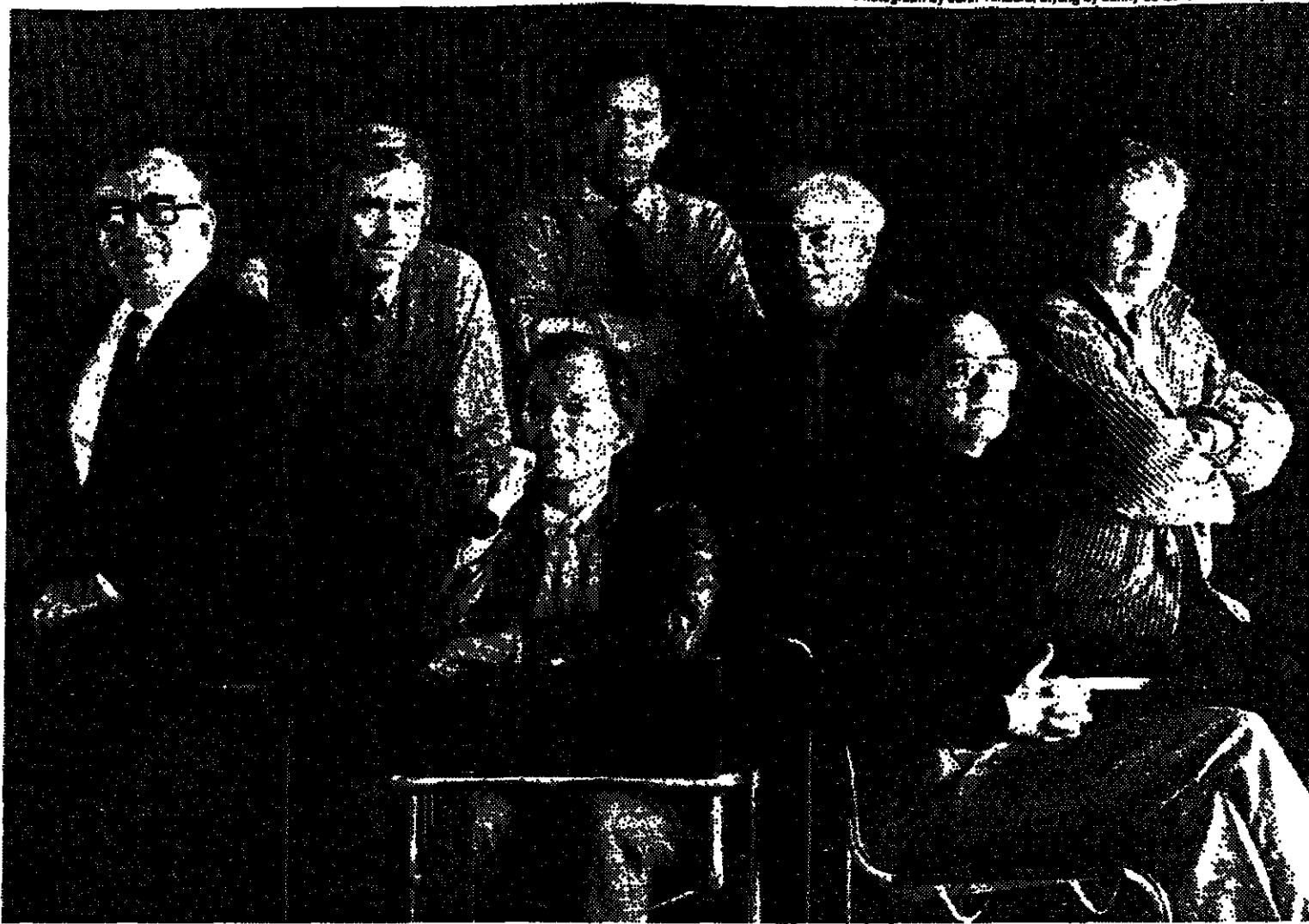
Who says automotive excellence speaks with a German accent? Not these British engineers

Driving into tomorrow

● Germany's reputation for top-class design and quality in its cars is the automotive equivalent of Cartier or Yves St Laurent. The proud owner of a BMW, Mercedes or Porsche is happy to pay the price for the image such a car bestows on him.

● Nowhere is this reputation more bullishly displayed than in BMW's £1 million advertising campaign for its new 7-series luxury car. In the advertisement, seven top engineering executives exude confidence: the impression being that every last nut and bolt has been designed and engineered to perfection.

● Sadly, the seven stars are actors. So what's the British answer to German hype? DANIEL WARD talks to seven of this country's top engineers and finds that they do not lack talent — just a little glossy image-making



Boffins searching for the breakthrough: (from left) Mike Westbrook, Peter Wright, David Bowler (seated), Mike Kelly, Peter Bearman, Gordon Sked and Roland Bertodo are all vitally involved in designing the car of the 21st century — unlike the actors in BMW's advertising campaign (below)

THE SEAT MAN

David Bowler

A few years ago a car seat was little more than a steel-sprung bedstead made for one. But seat comfort has become increasingly important and today at least one £19,000 car has six-way powered front seats with a memory that can store up to four different seat positions at the touch of a button.

The bedding spring-style seats have disappeared, replaced by platforms with carefully tuned springs supporting moulded foam cushions. These have two different hardnesses, providing firm support in the critical areas of the back and softness elsewhere.

The trend towards firm seats has, however, created problems of muscle fatigue, according to David Bowler, Ford's chief seat engineer. The elimination of muscle stiffness caused by hours of driving could come with the introduction of the "active" seat, which will automatically massage the driver. "Work is being done to see how much massage is needed," Bowler says. A computer will be needed to control the oscillations of the seat cushions if the driver is not to feel he is sitting on a waterbed.

"Seats have changed an awful lot over the past 10 years," Bowler concludes. "And they will continue to change."

THE ELECTRONICS MAN

Mike Westbrook

The all-singing, all-dancing electronic car will come. The question is when — and at what cost. For an experienced researcher such as Mike Westbrook, Ford's head of electronic research, most things are possible.

A fascinating insight into Westbrook's world of advanced electronics — very different from the one in which he began his engineering career, in 1952 — came 18 months ago, when Ford took the wraps off its Eltec concept car.

Central to the concept, Westbrook explains, are an engine and automatically controlled gearbox. Their ability to provide either optimum performance or economy does not depend on the driver, as the throttle pedal is not connected to the engine, but to a computer that makes all the important decisions.

The notorious unreliability of today's wiring looms will be a thing of the past, as all the wires are

replaced by just two. To switch the lights on, a coded signal will be picked up by the lamps which will take current from a ring main, like the one found in a house.

Westbrook does not like voice synthesis or voice activation for controls, but he is much more enthusiastic about navigational systems. Using inductive loops embedded in the road and linked to a central computer, it will be possible to warn the driver of traffic hold-ups and provide directions.

But talk of a radar system to prevent drivers getting too close on motorways receives the Westbrook thumbs down. And what about satellites which can detect when cars are about to collide, and apply the brakes? Westbrook just smiles.

THE BODY MAN

Gordon Sked

Car stylists will only rarely admit that today's cars look too similar, yet Gordon Sked, director of Austin Rover's production design studio, is in no doubt that the new challenge for designers is to give a more individual appearance to the next generation of cars.

It will not be an easy task: the aerodynamics demands for a smooth, low drag shape, the trend in headlamp design and the use of large plastic bumpers all bring common features to the car of the 1980s.

Sked believes the clear definition of size for small, medium and large cars is becoming blurred. With executive cars, the designer of the Rover 800 says, "size is not as important as the car's image and perception — and it is success in these areas which counts".

The design challenge for the next generation of cars will be to create the impression of space, even though the premium on cabin space will be heightened by the increasing number of features and gadgets which will become standard equipment.

THE ENGINE MAN

Roland Bertodo

The small car engine of the early 1990s will be much more powerful than its predecessors, capable of achieving more than 40mpg, while having the least toxic exhaust emissions ever. Roland Bertodo knows this is possible because, as Austin Rover's director of product engineering, he led a team that has designed — at a cost of more than



£100 million — just such an engine. It will power the Metro of 1990.

Tomorrow's small car engine will have the technical sophistication of many of today's racing engines, with fuel injection and 16 valves. Bertodo says that these days only the earliest design thinking is sketched on paper. From then on the engine takes shape on a computer screen.

Bertodo denies that the increasing sophistication and electronic control of small car engines could result in more going wrong with them. "There can't be any question of good or bad reliability," he says. "It mustn't go wrong."

He forecasts lengthened service intervals, and the introduction of engines that will be able to locate faults and store a message for the mechanic, describing them.

THE SUSPENSION MAN

Peter Wright

In 1989 an American car will be launched with a revolutionary type of suspension. Computer-controlled hydraulic jacks at each wheel will replace conventional springs and dampers. The system, called "active suspension", has been developed by Lotus, working with computer experts at the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

"What we have done is to take aerospace fly-by-wire technology," Peter Wright, technical director of Lotus Engineering, explains, "and apply it to the car. The main thing it solves is the compromise of ride comfort and roadholding. With active suspension you have very good ride and handling." Driving a

car with active suspension is a strange experience. The body does not roll in corners or dive forward under hard braking.

Wright has led Lotus's active suspension team from the start, having developed the system to help overcome aerodynamic problems he faced in his previous job as chief aerodynamicist for the Lotus Grand Prix team.

He says that Lotus has helped develop 20 of the 21 prototype cars equipped with active suspension and built for the world's top car makers. Mercedes built its own active suspension car but, as Wright says, "They are where we were three or four years ago". Lotus took just six months to build its first computer suspension system for a Grand Prix car. Mercedes is said to have taken 12 years.

THE AERODYNAMICS MAN

Peter Bearman

Lecturer and researcher Professor Peter Bearman is one of Europe's best car aerodynamicists. Several Formula One racing cars have been developed in the department of experimental aerodynamics wind tunnel at Imperial College, London, while Porsche and Ferrari have been among the manufacturers who have beaten a path to Kensington to use the tunnel's special moving floor. One of only a few in the world, this offers the closest simulation possible of actual driving conditions.

By the 1970s, manufacturers had become aware of the value of streamlining cars, making them more economical to run. "The Audi

100 was the breakthrough and it set the standards for others," Bearman says of the car which proudly claimed a drag coefficient of 0.30.

Bearman believes that in the future wind tunnels will be used to reduce not just air drag but what he calls "aerodynamic noise", created by the wind whistling around the car. It is conceivable that 10 years from now cars will be tested not in a wind tunnel but on a computer.

Wind tunnel testing is costly — more than £1000 an hour — and slow — it takes more than 1,000 hours to develop today's sleekest cars. Computers would speed up the process, although the professor warns that it might require six super computers to cope with the highly complex problem of simulating air flow. "The wheels themselves are a formidable problem," he says.

THE ROBOT MAN

Mike Kelly

Will the car factory of the year 2000 match up to the popular conception of having no human workers: just armies of robots beavering away with the lights turned off? Britain's top robot expert does not think so.

Mike Kelly, director of advanced manufacturing technology at the Gaydon Technology research centre, and chairman of the British Robot Association, has helped develop robots which paint Austin Rover cars and "sniff" out water leaks, and a camera which allows the robot to "see" where it is welding. He now designs and sells the advanced automation for tomorrow's factory.

"Cars are going to be designed and built in a totally different way," he says. "Perhaps you don't put the roof on until last. Perhaps you start with the floorpan and build upwards with the seats and trim."

The cars will be so complex that large parts will be automatically assembled by robots away from the line and then bolted into place. However, it could still take 10 man-hours to complete the final assembly of the car.

"If you went into a car plant a few years ago you would have been struck by the huge number of people, like worker ants, the smell and sparks, and the feeling of dynamism as all the tracks moved," he says enthusiastically.

"In the year 2000 it will be quite different. It will be cleaner and quieter, with the body shells being assembled in a series of cells."

Chivalry in the air

The First World War aviators were probably the last truly chivalric combatants, says

Piet Hein Meijering (right)



Chivalry in war is long dead and will probably never return. As Piet Hein Meijering makes clear in his new book, *Signed with Their Honour*, one reason for that is technical: combatants now are anonymous figures, unlikely to engage in close combat, and they deal out destruction to unseen victims many miles away.

"Just the simple fact of the enclosed cockpit on Second World War fighters must have meant a diminution in the chivalric behaviour between pilots," he says. "Seeing the enemy clearly must tend to produce chivalric behaviour."

There was, however, a last great age of chivalry during the air battles of the First World War. A small band of pioneer aviators — drawn inevitably into a brotherhood — battled it out with a code of honour unseen since the Middle Ages, which was hardly found in the carnage of the mud below.

In June 1917, the German fighter pilot Ernst Udet, still only a novice, was on a balloon-rafting mission over France when he was suddenly engaged in combat with a Spad 7. Manoeuvring in classic tail-chasing circles Udet managed to read the legend of *Peter Charles* on the side of the Spad, which identified the pilot as Georges Guynemer, the greatest French ace of the time, with more than 30 victories to his credit. Udet's Albatross was no match for the Spad, nor Udet for Guynemer — and both pilots knew it. But when Udet's machine guns jammed, Guynemer saw his opponent's predicament, broke off the fight, waved and headed for home.

Piet Hein Meijering begins with that anecdote, largely because his reading of Udet's autobiography, *Mein Fliegerleben*, when he was 16 led him to the subject of chivalry in the air. He had been an aviation enthusiast as a boy and had always assumed that he would become a commercial pilot. But after getting a gliding licence he failed his physical examination.

The book has a preface by the German Second World War ace, Adolf Galland, who knew Udet and of whom Meijering says: "He is a very gentle, very pacifist man who

has done much to re-establish understanding between former enemies after the war."

The author has assembled hundreds of flying anecdotes, most from the First World War with a few from the second, all illustrating some form of chivalric behaviour. It may be the courtesy shown to a downed opponent or the manner of death and a military funeral. Often something as simple as personal markings on an aeroplane (corresponding to heraldic arms) ensured that the pilot would be treated honourably.

Meijering was much influenced as a young man by *Homo Ludens*, the examination of play in all forms of human activity, including



Georges Guynemer: broke off the fight and headed for home war, by the great Dutch historian Huizinga. Meijering realized that chivalry was a way of imposing formal constraints on war in the interests of civilization. As Huizinga points out, war can only remain within the bounds of civilization as long as certain limitations are accepted for the sake of honour.

The notion of war as a form of game playing is abhorrent to us in the nuclear era. The "dehumanizing" of war has eradicated chivalry. Meijering quotes a letter from the First World War ace Arthur Rhys Davids, in which he describes air combat as "the dazzling thrill of the best game God ever invented". If we find that shocking, it may well be that the loss is ours. For there is no chivalry now.

Chris Peachment
Signed with Their Honour,
by Piet Hein Meijering (Mainstream Publishing, £12.95).

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ACROSS

- 1 Man's hairdresser (6)
- 5 Cut back (6)
- 8 Mimic (3)
- 9 Order to appear (6)
- 10 14 line poem (6)
- 11 Film roll (4)
- 12 Unguent (8)
- 14 London banking centre (7,6)
- 17 Aquatic glider (5,3)
- 19 Benefit (4)
- 21 S. American cloak (6)
- 23 Carry to excess (6)
- 24 Decadent (3)
- 25 Brass musical disc (6)
- 26 Excessively attractive object (6)

DOWN

- 2 Keen (5)
- 3 Large hairy bomb (5)
- 4 Spit (7)
- 5 Plant eradication (5)
- 6 Impromptu for debt (3)
- 7 Wash (7)
- 13 Disordered state (5-4)
- 15 Public speaking (7)
- 16 Side benefit (4,3)
- 18 Cotton holder (5)
- 20 Glory (5)
- 22 Taxi (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1254

ACROSS:

1 Upkeep 5 Hope 8 Clear 9 Succour 11 Basilica

13 Snug 15 Pas de deux 18 Tate 19 Addendum 22 Rampage

23 Toxic 24 Scan 25 Emblem

DOWN: 2 Press 3 Err 4 Passchendaele 5 Hook 6 Phoenix

7 Suite 10 Rage 12 List 14 Peke 15 Potomac 16 Star 17 Smock

20 Chase 21 Pawn 23 Tub

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FASHION by Liz Smith

Short cuts to sophistication

Smarten up your image — elegance can now be found in slim, short skirts, which balance the silhouette and flatter the legs

Refusing to conform to bossy fashion dictums is one of the many grand gestures made by today's free-thinking females. That is fine. If you want to stage your own little genteel revolt against crinolines or puffed sleeves, go ahead. Fight back against boned waspies and Fifties chapeaux, if you like. Mock those sheep-like sisters who fall victim to fashion's sly snares. It is admirable to have developed a personal style so strong that it leaves you confident to flout every new trend.

But any woman who takes pleasure in adopting a refreshingly new look, who is anxious to avoid dowdiness this season (and the next and the one after, no doubt) should try stepping out in the new short skirt.

You would have thought that by now such an age-old fashion phobia as a change in hemline would have lost its terror for rational women. But in spite of being chivvied reassuringly by the smart glossies that the new short skirt puts pace and pep into life, even with the obvious weight of every top international design name behind the rising hemline, a lot of women seem to be missing out on this important trend, one of fashion's jolliest in years.

I can't imagine why. Stand in front of a full-length mirror and hitch up your skirt. You will see it is all a question of proportion, and probably flatters even less-than-perfect calves or ankles better than an A-line of indeterminate length ever can.

Unlike past vogues for the micromini, hotpants or those indecently luminous Lycra leggings, today's short skirt is not worn to titillate. (Men actually love them.) Far from wanting to look merely provocative, pioneers of the rising hemline are all sophisticated women who know how to dress. They are the couture customers — couture leads the fashion way once again — stylish career women and fashion professionals, who know perfectly well that looking smart no longer depends on measuring a skirt precisely so many centimetres from waist to hem.

A skirt that looks new and short can be any length from on the kneecap to riding as far up the thigh as it flatters. Happily, this is one of



fashion's less expensive flirtations. Two well-loved but quite ancient suits of mine, both Cerruti classics, got a new lease of life earlier this year with inches chopped off the skirts and side seams tapered (it is strange how even a pencil skirt looks disturbingly A-line when cropped to above the knee).

Far from being a fashion to be adopted by anyone merely attempting to look younger, the pared-down skirt looks

more grown-up, more sophisticated, than the other extreme. Stick to longer skirts fluttering around mid-calf for a more youthful, folkier image.

With short skirts it is essential to get the balance right. A blazer-style jacket, well-cut and generously proportioned, makes the sparest of skirts look totally decent and chic. The elegant version pictured is by Nicole Farhi, who faultlessly designs a miniskirt that is perfectly balanced in width and length to her summery double-breasted blazer in fine wool.

A more casual partner to the new short skirt is that all-time classic, a safari jacket, belted tight here over a stretchy tube of white ribbing, uncompromisingly tan and short and to be worn by those with slender thighs. All the newest warm-weather shapes — sa-

rons and tapering tulip skirts, fluted bell shapes and graceful wrap-over pencil lines — look pacy and fresh, cropped to above the knee.

But it is at night that the new short skirt has most fun and emerges as the real fashion star of the season.

Dropped on to a tight, swathed strapless top it can be nothing more than a flirtatious ruffle or two, or sculpted into a more gentle tulip shape, just hitting the knee.

Caroline Charles, a designer with a sophisticated clientele in her own Knightsbridge boutique as well as a wider following dotted across the country, successfully sells short 21-inch skirts this season as well as her graceful long (31 and 34in) lengths. "Short skirts look snazzy and a lot of

fun," she says. "Everyone enjoys wearing them."

With shorter skirts, wear shoes with a high heel. Nothing clumpy or overworked, just sleek, high-beeled courts or slingbacks that flatter the ankle, plain, snake-textured, or those smart two-toned co-respondents. Tights should be sheer, never patterned, in tones from pale bone to buff (never, ever, that freakish American tan) or else sheer black or almost black.

As I write this I realize that I am wearing again my favourite suede sarong skirt — mid-calf length — with bare legs and high, brown sandals. Far from displaying a lack of consistency, that is what is meant by freedom to choose, enjoying with ease the rise and fall in hemlines, getting pleasure from fast-changing silhouettes. It's what makes fashion fun.

Centre: Taupe gabardine jacket, £191, beige skirt, £71, Nicole Farhi at Selfridges, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1. T-shirt, £15, Jill Sander from Browns, W1. Leather belt, £60 J & M Davidson, 4 Grosvenor Street, W1. Beige shoes, £37, Basics from Way-in, Harrods, SW1. Left: Taupe shantung dress, £201, Jasper Conran, 37 Beauchamp Place, SW5; Raggs, Twickenham, Surrey, £255.99, Russell & Bromley. Right: Khaki cotton jacket, £97, Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1. Tube skirt, £19.99 from Pineapple Fashion Shops, Beit, £60, duffel bag, £110, J & M Davidson. Shoes as above. Jewellery: Butler & Wilson, South Molton St, W1. Hair: SALLY FRANCOMB, Vincent Lomax. Make-up: LEANNE HIRSH. Photographs by TONY MCGEE

EHRMAN TAPESTRY

We asked Edwin Belchamber to design a fresh and light tapestry for the spring. He took as his inspiration Sissinghurst in Kent and the result is this lovely needlework picture in spring garden colours with a border of wild roses.



The design measures 14 1/2 in. x 14 1/2 in. and is worked in simple half-cross stitch. It is printed in the full eleven colours: silver grey, grass green, fawn, light cornflower blue, a faded and a pale rose pink, oldleaf green, hazelnut, pale biscuit, beech green and white. The canvas is 12 holes to the inch and the kit comes complete with all the required yarns from the Appleton tapestry range, needles and instructions. All for £19.95, including postage and packing.

This picture is featured in our new book *Designer Needlepoint*, where 25 of our designs appear as charts. The photography is outstanding and the book, 128 pages long, is filled with ideas for adapting, altering and transferring the designs. It has a comprehensive survey of alternative stitches and a history of all the designs and designers featured. It is also available by mail order at £14.95 plus £1 for postage and packing. When ordering, use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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PEOPLE

Joseph's film fans

Fashion designer and entrepreneur Joseph Ettedgui is cashing in on the guaranteed presence of the international glitterati at the Cannes Film Festival. He has taken the opportunity to launch his latest shop in Rue d'Antibes with a series of star-studded soirées.

Among those likely to be popping in between films for a canapé and a peek at the Triot collection are Isabella Rossellini, Greta Scacchi, Rupert Everett and Charles Dance, fans already of Joseph's cosmopolitan chic at his Triot shops in London, Paris and New York. They will probably receive a further invitation to his next shop opening which will be in Monte Carlo, with another planned later in St Tropez.

Bags of style

"No clothes to be sold on the premises", the lease for the pretty corner shop in Grosvenor Street stipulated. However, John and Monique Davidson opened their first own-name boutique last week, on the site which used to sell antique silver. Although a collection of knitwear has recently joined their fast-selling lines, it is only the J & M Davidson stock-in-trade that fills the new shop, impeccably-styled tapestry and canvas bags and luggage. Their timeless accessories were originally commissioned by Dior.

Paris designers Ventilo and Claude Montana. She is French, he is English and they met on a beach in Spain.

Antique watches (from £150), chunky silver jewellery (from £165) from Egypt sell alongside the carefully-crafted stitched and plaited leather belts (see above), d'aries and wallets. J & M Davidson is at 4 Grosvenor Street, London W1.

Classy glasses

Bruce Oldfield needs spectacles only for reading. To pore over the small print of his growing number of design contracts, he wears a pair of half-moon tortoiseshell specs perched on the end of his nose.

So it was hardly surprising that a pair of half-eye frames featured in the range of Bruce Oldfield spectacles for Pilkington, which has just been launched. Four discreet styles in 18 different colours, for men as well as women, go on sale through opticians next week. Prices, with lenses, from £80. "No extravaganzas," Bruce explains. "Just a cunning new hinged-gate detail."

But as most of the Oldfield clientele spend time disguising their celebrity behind dark shades, a few sunglasses to his design will be available this season in his Beauchamp Place shop and exclusive stockists. Among the first Oldfield-designed frames to be given prescription lenses will surely be his own. The ones he is currently wearing are by Dior.

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Charles of the Ritz

THE TIMES DIARY

Putt down

After playing a solitary game of golf at Chequers on Sunday while the Prime Minister was deliberating over the date of the election, Denis Thatcher's June holiday plans have clearly not influenced his wife's decision. Denis was due to go to the south of France on June 8 with three cronies for a golfing holiday and was to have been playing on the sea course at Le Touquet on polling day. This is the second year running that the group has been foiled: last year's plans were spoilt by illness. But the golfers were not given preferential treatment by the Prime Minister: they only cancelled the trip yesterday afternoon.

Book bang

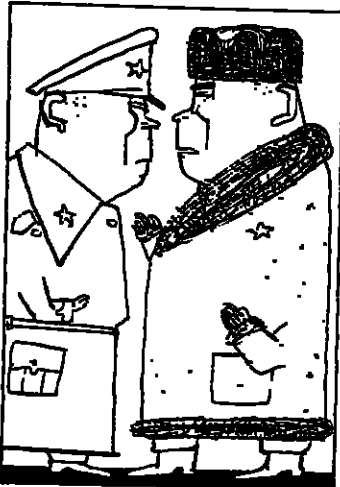
Last week's takeover of Chatto, Bodley Head and Cape by American publishers Random House could yet claim casualties. Bodley's chairman, Max Reinhardt, told me yesterday that at the weekend he had talked to Graham Greene and would discuss things again later this week. Reading between the lines, I suspect that Greene, who wrote to *The Times* in March to bemoan the parlous state of his publishers, is unhappy about the takeover. Reinhardt, however, said it was out of the question either that Greene would desert him or that Bodley would quit the Chatto group. So if Greene did want out? "If Graham wanted to leave I would go with him," Reinhardt confirmed.

Central Office did not quite remember everything yesterday. Moments before Mrs Thatcher began her succession of TV interviews inside No 10, a press officer appeared on the doorstep and asked the television crew: "Has anyone brought a make-up lady?" Duly materializing, one was led in.

Contra measure

It is not just members of the Reagan administration who have problems over contributions to the Contras. Granada Television, founded by the Labour peer, Lord Bernstein, was almost forced into making a donation to the Nicaraguan rebels. Participants in its three-part series *War on Drugs*, running this week, were offered £100 each for the charity of their choice. But a former CIA man, and Reagan Assistant Secretary of State for Narcotic Affairs, Jon Thomas, who appears tonight, said he wanted his fee to go to a Contra support group in Managua. After soul-searching, Brian Lapping, the programme's executive producer, ruled that the agreement must be honoured. "Contras it is," he told Thomas, who broke into a broad grin and offered instead the name of a church charity in Memphis, Tennessee.

BARRY FANTONI



Park person

Marshall Street civil servants are applauding environment minister William Waldegrave's ruthless exercise of executive power last week. The occasion was an ITN interview with Waldegrave conducted in St James's Park. Hardly had a question been asked by the reporter than a policeman asked the pair to move on. "You need permission to film here," said the constable. Waldegrave drew himself up to his full height and said that as minister with responsibility for the royal parks, he hereby gave himself permission. The copper, I am told, momentarily appeared to toy with replying "And I'm the Duke of Edinburgh", but thought better of it and walked away.

Over-run

Marathon postscript: Great Ormond Street children's hospital is likely to receive at least £135,000 for respiratory and intensive care equipment, £35,000 more than expected, from the City group of runners organized by investment analyst Katie Brasher. Christopher Castleman, chief executive at merchant bankers Hill Samuel, who sent out 700 requests for backing, brought in the group's largest single contribution of £45,000, which he achieved through the generosity, not wealth, as I said yesterday, of 500 friends and acquaintances.

PHS

Is Mr Gorbachev a champion of human rights? Is he concerned with the humanitarian problems of the people of his own country? Definitely not. He is a man who made his career inside the Soviet system and whose main supporters were leaders of the KGB. But he is a different leader. Above all, he is a much more realistic leader. Soon after he came to power, and while I was still in prison, I read a statement in *Pravda* in which he said that if something was not done with the economy the Soviet Union could lose in the competition with capitalism. This was a historic statement because everyone brought up in the Soviet Union is taught from childhood that there is a law of nature, discovered by Marx and approved by Lenin, that capitalism will lose. If, suddenly, not a dissident but the leader of the Soviet state says that capitalism can win, that is really something new.

But as well as being a realist in facing Soviet problems, Mr Gorbachev is also realistic in understanding how the West works. He is the first Soviet leader to have recognized the power of the human rights issue in relations with the West. He realized that he had to do something to change the Soviet Union's image.

What we are seeing is a much more sophisticated Soviet policy and we must admit frankly that the West was not prepared for it. When I was talking to Andrei Sakharov and his wife by telephone two months ago — the first time we had spoken for 10 years —

questions asked by his wife reminded me of the situation as it was 10 years ago when I helped them with press conferences.

She said that two days before they had given an interview to *Agence France Press*. They heard it on the radio and it sounded very different. All their criticism of President Reagan was there and it sounded even stronger. All their criticism — and there was quite a lot of it — of Gorbachev's policy, especially his linking of SDI with all other aspects of disarmament, had disappeared. Who had censored it? I told her that I was sure no one had censored it. It was just as in the good old days when we were working with Western correspondents: they react to the things the world wants to hear. Today the world wants to hear that Gorbachev is good and Western leaders are not so good. I have been continually surprised in the West about the extent to which there are double stan-

dards in cases which seem very obvious to me. Take, for instance, South Africa and apartheid. South Africa has taken one step after another and the West has described them all as cosmetic. I think the West is right because none of these steps changes the principle of apartheid. It is a moral question and we cannot bargain on moral principles.

On the other hand, take the Soviet Union. Without expressing any sympathy for South Africa I can say that the number of human rights violations in the Soviet Union is at least as great as it is in South Africa. Everyone in the Soviet Union has a passport which contains the registration of where the person must live. When they decided that the whole Crimean Tartar population of 500,000 Muslim people — should be expelled from the Crimea they were sent to Siberia. Now, more than 40 years later, none of them can go back to the

Crimea simply because it states in their passports that they may not be registered there. And in the Soviet Union, unlike South Africa, there is no opposition, there is no press at least partially opposed to the regime, and no free elections, even for minorities.

People used to express surprise about the number of prisoners in South Africa — and the figures are very large. But in the Soviet Union there are at least five million people (not political prisoners) in camps and prisons and this figure in proportion to the population is at least 10 times more than in South Africa. Yet no one even dares to speak about imposing sanctions on the Soviet Union.

People have recently compared Gorbachev with Khrushchev. But we must not forget that Khrushchev released millions of people from the camps and he did not just pardon them but rehabilitated them, so accepting that the state had made a mistake. He also acted without publicity.

Gorbachev has released only individuals but the whole world speaks about it for months. And the people he has released are not rehabilitated, just pardoned. The articles of the criminal code under which they were sentenced still exist and people are still arrested. Even so, we hear more and more people saying that we should not irritate the Soviet Union, we should encourage them. The approach of Gorbachev is quite different from that of Khrushchev.

This is an edited account of an address given to the Oxford Union.

Your double standards in the West

by Natan Shcharansky

Raymond Kuhn sees a televisual danger on the eve of the campaign

Masters of the medium

A general election without television is now as unthinkable as Christmas without commercialism; with the 1987 campaign about to begin, the viewer-voter can expect the schedules to be dominated by it.

Yet the sheer quantity of election television will be only one feature of the campaign; the qualitative impact of the medium is much more significant. Television no longer covers the election campaign. It has become the campaign. Television is not just an observer of political events taking place in the real world, it has become the world in which those events take place. To a large extent, television now determines the way in which politics is presented to the viewing public.

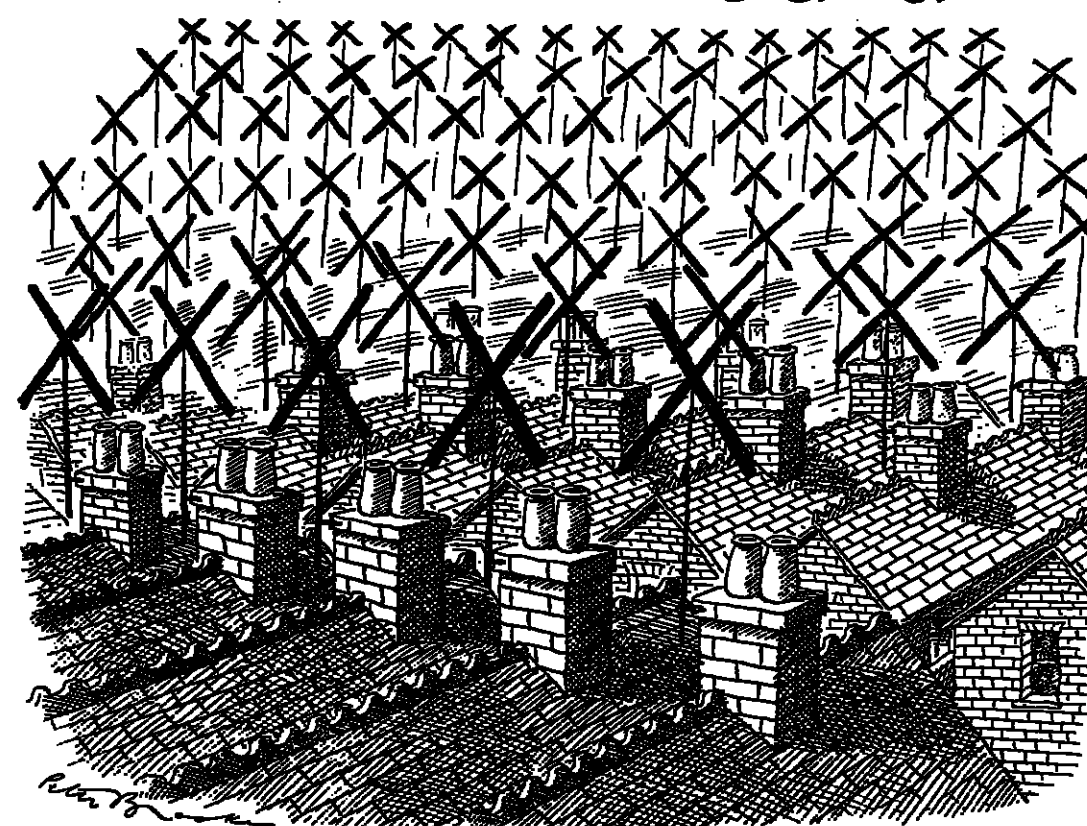
The campaign preparations by the parties are increasingly geared to this need. The Conservatives have been particularly adept at it. In 1983 even the colour of the curtains at press conferences was intended to evoke a particular atmosphere: light blue for the relaxed mood, dark blue for the resolute approach.

The Labour Party is a recent and reluctant convert to the demands of the audiovisual age. Harold Wilson may have been a skilful television performer, but the party as a whole has always been suspicious of the medium's potential to distort its political message. At the last election Labour still failed to realize the significance of the medium. Only since the 1983 debate has Labour sought to give a higher profile to the role of media advisors at party headquarters.

The problem facing the Alliance is very different. There is no reluctance on its part to adjust to the demands of television. The SDP in particular is conscious of the importance of television as a means of mass political communication in the absence of a well implanted organization or large membership in many parts of the country. Rather the Alliance's task has been to persuade television to accept the legitimacy of both its presence and its form.

The growth of a third force in British politics has upset traditional notions of balance in election coverage. The desire by the Alliance to be placed on a par with the other two parties only recently being accepted after a protracted struggle. In addition, the fact that the Alliance is a coalition of two parties with distinct leaderships makes it more difficult for television to focus its customary attention on a single dominant figure.

This personalization of electoral politics is another product of the television age. While a British general election is not a presidential contest, television does like to concentrate attention on personal-



ities and in particular on party leaders. A telegraphic persona is a compulsory requirement, not an optional extra for a party leader.

This leaves parties with two choices: either select a leader who already has natural television qualities, or ensure that he acquires them from the professionals. Neil Kinnock (despite a tendency to verbosity), David Owen and David Steel fall into the former category. It is no exaggeration to say that the Labour and SDP leaders owe their leadership in large measure to the media failures of their predecessors (Foot and Jenkins) in 1983.

Margaret Thatcher, on the other hand, has had to have her style adapted, with her naturally combative approach of Prime Minister's Question Time softened for popular television consumption. The end result is much the same.

Television's predominance has led to an obsession with image and presentation. Mrs Thatcher has promoted her self-image as a strong leader. Neil Kinnock has presented himself as a caring family man and the two Davids, in their desire to show a common front, are as inseparable in their television appearances as Siamese twins. The parties have become as concerned with the presentation of policies as with their substance. If a sceptical electorate is to be convinced of Conservative compassion, Alliance unity or Labour realism, the policy packaging has to be attractive.

This does not mean that issues

of policy will be absent from television's election coverage. The Conservatives will want to focus public attention on taxation, law and order and defence, hoping to highlight the clear divisions within the two opposing camps on the defence issue. Labour will hope to concentrate on health, education and, of course, unemployment.

All three main forces will do their best to ensure that television's agenda plays to their perceived strengths. However, even in the absence of a Falklands factor, the 1987 election campaign on television could well end up as a replay of 1983, with the Conservative Party allowed the luxury of not having to spell out its policies for another term in office as Labour and the Alliance slug it out for second place.

If this does prove to be the case, then television will have failed in its role of informing and educating the electorate. And here we come to the heart of the problem of electoral television 1987. On grounds of equity television has to be concerned with fair and balanced coverage of the parties. On a stopwatch basis, no doubt this will be achieved. At the same time there is a perfectly comprehensible fear on the part of those working in television's upper echelons, especially at the BBC, of taking risks that might offend the likely Conservative voters.

In such an environment the broadcasters may well decide that discretion is the better part of valour. The danger inherent in this approach is that what the

viewer-voter sees will be what the parties want him to see.

The resultant paradox is that while television has shaped the parties' electoral campaign strategies to an overwhelming extent, the medium is now largely subordinated to the vote-winning objectives of the politicians.

Election television is being used as a medium of persuasion and even manipulation, rather than one of education and information. From the perspective of politicians this may be perfectly reasonable, since in the election market place their role is to sell their political goods to more consumers than their rivals. But it is clear that the electorate is not particularly well served by such an arrangement.

It is, therefore, up to broadcasters to act on the public's behalf through critical questioning of party spokesmen and probing beneath the surface of what the parties have to offer. British television has the capacity to perform such a task. If, however, television confines itself to the beauty contest aspects of the election it will have failed in its public service responsibilities.

Tony Benn once submitted that broadcasting was too important to be left to the broadcasters. As the 1987 campaign begins, it seems more pertinent to argue that television is too important to be left to the politicians.

The author is a lecturer in the department of political studies at Queen Mary College, University of London.

Science finds a defender of the faith

Professor Stanley Jaki, who received a cheque from the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday for nearly a quarter of a million pounds, is a doctor of physics and of theology in a double sense. He has a mission to diagnose and cure their sickness: he has doctorates in both subjects.

He is this year's winner of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, to be formally celebrated at a ceremony in Guildhall, London, today: one of the most challenging and controversial awards in the 15-year history of the prize.

Professor Jaki's life's work is an unremitting assault upon the belief that science, the universal arbiter of what is true or false, is in essence an agnostic or even atheistic activity. Whatever an individual scientist happens to believe privately about God, as a scientist he is neutral; and if science itself is forced to say anything at all on the subject, the answer is resoundingly negative. As far as science is concerned, God is irrelevant and does not exist.

Jaki accuses the entire scientific establishment of existing in a twilight of philosophical half-truths which is deliberately cultivated for reasons which have

nothing to do with science. "In an interview yesterday he said: 'I told me if I wanted my ideas accepted I should wear a sports jacket and leave off my clerical collar.'"

Jaki's prize was awarded for "offering a new interpretation of the history of science and culture, and not least the relation of science and faith" in the words of the eminent panel of judges. He is a Benedictine monk of Hungarian origin, aged 62, and now living in America, and the entire prize will go towards supporting Hungarian priests in exile in the West.

For Jaki, as the constant theme of his numerous books and articles shows, science is itself impossible without God, and would never have started without Him. He attacks the establishment on all fronts at once, with supreme confidence and vast reserves of learning.

He attacks them as bad scientists, on their home ground, where few theologians ever dare to tread. Jaki, as a physicist, has explored afresh the great quarrel between Albert Einstein and the founders of quantum mechanics: has dug into the intellectual relationship of the Vienna circle of philosophers with contemporary

mid-European physics; has traced the origins of the ideas called special and general relativity, and of the assertions and denials that there could be such a thing as a science of cosmology.

Many of those engaged in these theories and controversies (including Einstein himself) were, he charges, working from a basis of deep personal prejudice against religion. Yet without implicitly religious assumptions scientific progress would have been impossible, and he warns that if ever they were abandoned altogether, science would come to a stop.

This is where Jaki makes the one general statement of his that non-scientists can most easily get hold of: that science itself could only have arisen in the intellectual environment of Christianity — in other words, no Christianity, no science; one is the womb of the other.

The scientific mind could only have developed where it was accepted as a universal truth that God was the creator of a world, which made sense, a God who made laws, and a God who made Man, who could understand those laws. Christianity told the human race that science was possible.

It is an idea whose truth is as

obvious to us as it was absurd to ancient pagan civilizations. Einstein himself spoke of the "miracle" that the human mind was capable of exploring the structure of the universe, that the one existed in the same framework of meaning as the other.

His anti-religious motivation, as Jaki frames the accusation, is an implacable determination not to give any credit or weight to the institutional church, to drive out religious dogma, and above all to give no foothold to metaphysics. Einstein himself suddenly seemed to give the game away when, in a letter to a friend, he admitted that he had become not just a physicist but a metaphysician, adding defensively: "This does not mean I have fallen into the hands of the priests."

In fact Jaki's accumulation of such revealing evidence suggests that contemporary science is as much about anti-clericalism as about discovery.

He is confident he is winning the argument at last, or at least metaphysics is. "Now they see they need it," he said with great satisfaction.

Clifford Longley

Andrew Gamble

A better sort of tactical vote

A group of citizens is seeking to make tactical voting a considerable factor in the general election. Their campaign — tv87 — is aimed at the 165 constituencies where the Conservatives won in 1983 on a minority vote. In Scotland the Conservatives failed to win a majority over all other parties in a single seat.

The campaign addresses its appeal to Labour and Alliance voters, as well as to disaffected Conservatives. It believes that if enough people could be persuaded to vote tactically the Conservatives would be prevented from winning another parliamentary majority on a minority vote.

The very existence of this campaign tells us much about the present state of British democracy. Voting tactically means voting for a party which is not your first choice. If significant numbers of voters are prepared to even consider voting in this way they are doing so because they feel they are disenfranchised by the existing political system.

Tactical voting is often presented as a tactic which favours the Alliance. That is hardly surprising. Alliance spokesmen have been assiduous in encouraging tactical voting by the supporters of the other two parties. In by-elections this has brought them stunning successes. Conservative and Labour voters in large numbers have shown themselves prepared to desert their own party and vote Alliance to stop the candidate of the other party winning. The Conservative and Labour leaderships as a result condemn tactical voting as a device designed to boost Alliance support.

Something new is happening, however, when a group of citizens outside the party structure comes together to press the case for mobilizing the anti-Conservative majority in the electorate to deny the Conservatives a parliamentary majority. They argue that a further period of Thatcher government is likely to be so damaging that any course of action that makes it less than likely is worth considering.

Many of those most active in calling for tactical voting are Labour Party supporters and voters. The case has been pressed vigorously by Eric Hobsbawm in *Marxism Today*, by the *New Statesman*, and by Stuart Weir, the editor of *New Socialist*, who gave the idea a guarded welcome but a welcome none the less.

There are problems with tactical voting but they are not the ones the Labour leadership sees. "Fruit machine politics" is a rather good description of the present electoral system. Tactical voting would hardly make the relationship between votes and seats more of a lottery than it is already.

The real difficulty with tactical voting is that it assumes too readily that there is an anti-Conservative majority waiting to be mobilized. Many Labour voters may have reached the point where they are prepared to vote Alliance in constituencies where the Alliance candidate might win. But there is no evidence that a

substantial body of Alliance supporters is prepared to vote Labour in similar circumstances. The Alliance for the moment is persisting in its strategy of encouraging supporters of both parties to vote tactically in the hope of boosting Alliance support and seats. Its principal aim in the next election is to win a larger share of the popular vote than Labour.

A successful campaign for tactical voting, if it remained confined to Labour Party supporters, might simply strengthen the Alliance's claim to be the main party of opposition to the Conservatives. But even if it were successful in depriving the Conservatives of their overall majority, the Conservatives on the evidence of recent polls would remain the largest single party in Parliament. A centre-right coalition would be much more likely than a centre-left coalition.

The tactical voting campaign will be doomed if it is seen to be one-sided. This would change only if Alliance voters had a positive reason for voting tactically in support of Labour candidates, and if the Alliance leadership had a centre-left coalition in a hung Parliament than any other alternative.

Such a positive reason would be provided if Labour were to commit itself now, before the election, to electoral reform. The case for doing so has become overwhelming, on grounds both of principle and expediency. Without electoral reform the Conservative dominance of British electoral politics is unlikely to be broken, and Labour will continue to be plagued by internal conflict.

There is no simple anti-Conservative or anti-Labour majority in Britain. There are different majorities on different issues which do not align neatly with party boundaries. The fragmentation of political allegiances in the past 20 years has made the present two-party system less and less representative of the electorate.

The case against electoral reform is that it would deprive the electorate of an effective choice between governments, and would give disproportionate influence to minorities in determining the composition of governments. No electoral system is free from problems. But the drawbacks of the present system have now become so great that they begin to undermine democracy. A fairer representation of opinion would restore some check to the executive by preventing any party from claiming a mandate with 40 per cent or less of the vote.

If Labour was prepared to recognize that its current level of support makes bidding for power on its own vain and self-defeating it would embrace electoral reform as an important and long overdue step in extending democracy in Britain. The prospects for effective tactical voting and the breaking of the Conservatives' hold on government would be transformed were it to do so.

The author is Professor of Politics at Sheffield University.

however... Henry Stanhope

Flogged by a dead horse

Horse riding is now reported to be the most dangerous sport in Britain, more lethal even than motor-cycle racing or mountaineering.

That doesn't surprise me in the least. Anyone who stays longer than 10 seconds on top of such a large and wayward quadruped deserves what he gets, if you ask me.

This is not to say that I have much sympathy for motor cyclists, or mountaineers either. Ever since a friend once gave me a lift on the back of his Triumph 500, in the days when crash helmets were cissy, I have regarded the former as the agents of Beelzebub.

As for mountains, while they bear all the hallmarks of our Creator, I can see no evidence to suggest that He meant them to be climbed. Otherwise He would have made them flatter and less precipitous. Whenever He sees another group crawling towards Him up the north face of the Matterhorn he must want to shout down and tell them that they're going the wrong way.

Those who engage in one or other of these bizarre activities, however, are at least masters (or mistresses) of their own destiny — as much as they deserve to be anyway. On the back of a horse, by contrast, one is not only too far from the ground for comfort, but is dependent for the maintenance of that distance upon the whims of an animal with a grudge to bear.

"You're not so daft, are you, my old love?" an old acquaintance of mine remarked the other day, fondly patting his equus on what I believe are called the withers. Now I would have thought that any animal willing to cart 15 stone of twined gear around the Home Counties, for no more reward than a bag of hay and a trough of cold water, must be as daft as a brush.

The point though, is that horses had their chance and fluffed it. They have been around in one form or another since Eohippus three million years ago — long before *Homo sapiens* came along with his French fries and vodka martinis. The conclusion one is drawn to is that God created man

to serve the horse, not the other way round. Swift suspected as much when he dreamed up the Houyhnhnms, that gentle race of equines, and the ignorant human Yahoos who slaved for them.

But what happened? From pulling the plough to charging the Russian guns at Balaclava, it's the horses who were put to do the work, until the Yahoos came up with a better idea, namely the internal combustion engine.

The poor old nag has had to give way even as a symbol of virility. As Surtees put it in *Handley Cross*: "There was no young man who would not rather have a humpation on his morality than on his ossmanship." But now it's his ossmanship that the Yuppies (son of Yahoo) cares about.

As a result the horses have been literally saddled with the few remaining jobs available, like jumping over fences at Olympia or chasing round the perimeter of Kempton Park for the delectation of Mr Joe Coral. If there are occasions when one of them decides to get his own back, I cannot say that I am very much surprised.

As a boy I gingerly bestrode from time to time an elderly shire from a neighbouring farm — an animal with a back as broad and flat as Table Mountain. That sportive grocer Jorrocks was said to be "not afraid of the pace as long as there was no leaping". But the old grey mare I used to ride was incapable of either, and that suited me fine.

What people see in horses beats me. As a spectator sport the Horse of the Year Show must rank somewhere below that of the Willenden and District (North West Section) annual ladies darts match. The sight of an endless procession of scarlet-coated lookalikes leaping in fairly ungraceful fashion over a succession of unmanned level crossing gates fast gets beyond a joke.

As for racing... but I shall return to that another day. Meanwhile, the only pony I recommend approaching is Shanks's — and I would do that only with caution.

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Saturday section by a preview of the week ahead. Items for inclusion should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

BOOKING KEY
★ Seats available
★ Returns only

THEATRE

★ **BREAKING THE CODE:** Revolving around the enigmatic Alan Turing, wartime computer genius and homosexual. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 9832). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **BRIGHTON BEACH MEMOIRS:** Neil Simon's vivid recollection of a Brooklyn childhood. Dorothy Tuin in an NT transfer. Aldwych Theatre, Aldwych, WC2 (01-836 6404, cc 01-379 6233). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **BURNING POINT:** New drama confronting policemen and black suspect after a city riot and the death of a cop. Tivoli Theatre, 256 Kilburn High Road NW6 (01-328 8628). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **CANARIES SOMETIMES SING:** Lonsdale's 1929 comedy: two couples wonder if they would be happier with different mates. Albery Theatre, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (01-836 3878). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **DESIRE UNDER THE ELM:** O'Neill's drama of violent passion on a New England farm. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 9832). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **EDWIN DRICO:** American musical of Dickens's unfinished mystery novel. The audience picks the villain and chooses the ending. With Ernie Wise and Lulu. Savoy Theatre, The Strand WC2 (01-836 8888). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **THE HARRY ARE:** Peter Stein's acclaimed Schaubühne production from Berlin visits London for one week. Performances in German. Text and synopsis available at the theatre. National Theatre, (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (01-828 2252). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **JEEVES TAKES CHARGE:** Edward Dae takes charge of Jeeves, Bertie Wooster, Drones and dragon aunts in a one-man show. Theatres: Charing Cross, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **LADY DAY:** Dee-Dee Bridgewater in a Billie Holiday musical. Transfer after a sell-out run at the Dome. Piccadilly Theatre, Denham Street W1 (01-437 4508). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **MURDO JUMBO:** Musical award-winner about love awakening in a Belfast school. Haymarket Theatre, Haymarket, SW1 (01-930 9832). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

Lyric Theatre, King Street W6 (01-741 2311). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **THE TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN:** Tom 'Lofly' Watt plays the prisoner on parole in a once famous Victorian social drama. Victoria Theatre, Victoria Square, Stratford E15 (01-534 0310). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR TROUSERS?:** Man wakes up in the wrong bed to find his clothes stolen by burglar. Take it from the author. Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross Road WC2 (01-379 6107). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **WOMAN IN MIND:** Playwright Adrain's drama with Pauline Collins as a wife at her wit's end. Vaudeville Theatre, The Strand WC2 (01-836 9887, cc 01-340 7200). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

★ **YR OBEISANT SERVANT:** Robbie Coltrane's one man journey round the large life of Dr Johnson. Lyric Theatre, King Street W6 (01-741 2311). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

OUT OF TOWN

BRISTOL: ★ **Balmoral Revival of Michael Frayn's comedy** in which Britain had the 1917 Revolution and Russia is still ruled by Tsars. Lyric Theatre, King Street W6 (01-741 2311). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

COVENTRY: ★ **As You Like It:** Lionel Blair plays Touchstone in a new production. Belgrade Theatre, Belgrade Square (0203 550355). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

DERBY: ★ **My Dad's a Hero:** Premiere of Christopher Denys play about a soldier returning from World War I. Playhouse Theatre, Eagle Centre (0332 363775). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

LINCOLN: ★ **Knuckle:** David Hare's fast-moving private-eye thriller, with Brian Blessed, Joanna Hole and Ernest Clark. Theatre Royal, Chichester (0252 25555). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

LIVERPOOL: ★ **The Rolling Class:** Peter Berner's black comedy blends together the House of Lords, madness, God and Jack the Ripper. Playhouse Theatre, Williamson Square (051 709 6363). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

MANCHESTER: ★ **The Merchant of Venice:** Sir John Wood. Theatres: Charing Cross, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

STRATFORD: ★ **Fashion:** Doug Lucie's gripping and strongly cast study of corruption of localities in a PR agency. Theatres: Charing Cross, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

STRATFORD: ★ **Tempest:** Latest sharp comedy by Vacav. Novel, Catch drama banned in his own country. Theatres: Charing Cross, WC2 (01-836 3028). Tue 8.15pm, Sat 8.15pm, Sun 7.30pm, mat 5.15pm, Sat 5.15pm, Sun 5.15pm.

BEST SELLING BOOKS

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| FICTION | Wendell 10.95 |
| 1 <i>Radical Year</i> , Margaret Drabble | Heinemann £11.95 |
| 2 <i>Rage</i> , Wilbur Smith | Hutchinson £6.95 |
| 3 <i>Cuts</i> , Malcolm Bradbury | Virago £10.95 |
| 4 <i>The Enigma of Arrival</i> , V S Naipaul | Bantam Press £10.95 |
| 5 <i>Destiny</i> , Sally Beauman | |
| NON FICTION | |
| 1 <i>The English Season</i> , Geoffrey Smith | Pavilion Books £14.95 |
| 2 <i>The Partnership</i> , Colin Simpson | Bodley Head £15.00 |
| 3 <i>Rebecca West: A Life</i> , Virginia Glandinning | Wendell £14.95 |
| 4 <i>Meddlesome Cookery</i> , Claudia Roden | BBC Publications £12.95 |
| 5 <i>Tycoon</i> , Geoffrey Wansell | Grafton £12.95 |
| PAPERBACKS | |
| 1 <i>A Perfect Spy</i> , John le Carré | Coronet £3.50 |
| 2 <i>If Not Now, When?</i> Primo Levi | Abacus £3.95 |
| 3 <i>84 Charing Cross Road</i> , Helene Hanff | Futura £2.50 |
| 4 <i>The Crime of the Century</i> , Hingley Arms | Dent £2.95 |
| 5 <i>Wheatie: The Story of the Famous Dog</i> , Robert Davies | Penguin £2.95 |
| 6 <i>An Artist of the Floating World</i> , Kazuo Ishiguro | Faber £3.95 |
| 7 <i>Hennrich's Footprints</i> , Bernard Levin | Sceptre £3.95 |
| 8 <i>Private People</i> , Margaret Forster | Penguin £3.95 |
| 9 <i>Real People</i> , John Lurie | Abacus £3.95 |
| 10 <i>Lie Down With Lions</i> , Ken Follet | Corgi £2.95 |

Source: Hatchards, 187 Piccadilly, London W1

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FILMS

Also on national release
★ **Advance booking possible**

★ **BLUE VELVET (18):** David Lynch's surreal tale about the peeped surface of an American small town being violently ripped apart. With Isabelle Rossellini and Dennis Hopper. (110 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **CHARGING CROSS ROAD (U):** A comedy about a man who is a book-crazed New Yorker, and a returning London antiquarian bookseller (Anthony Hopkins). David Jones directs (99min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **DEATH OF A SOLDIER (18):** The true story of a psychopathic US soldier who changed the lives of Melbourne women in 1942. With James Coburn as the American and John Cazale as the soldier. (110 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **THE FOURTH PROTOCOL (15):** Old-fashioned entertainment based on Frederick Forsyth's novel about the Soviet plan to sabotage NATO. (110 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

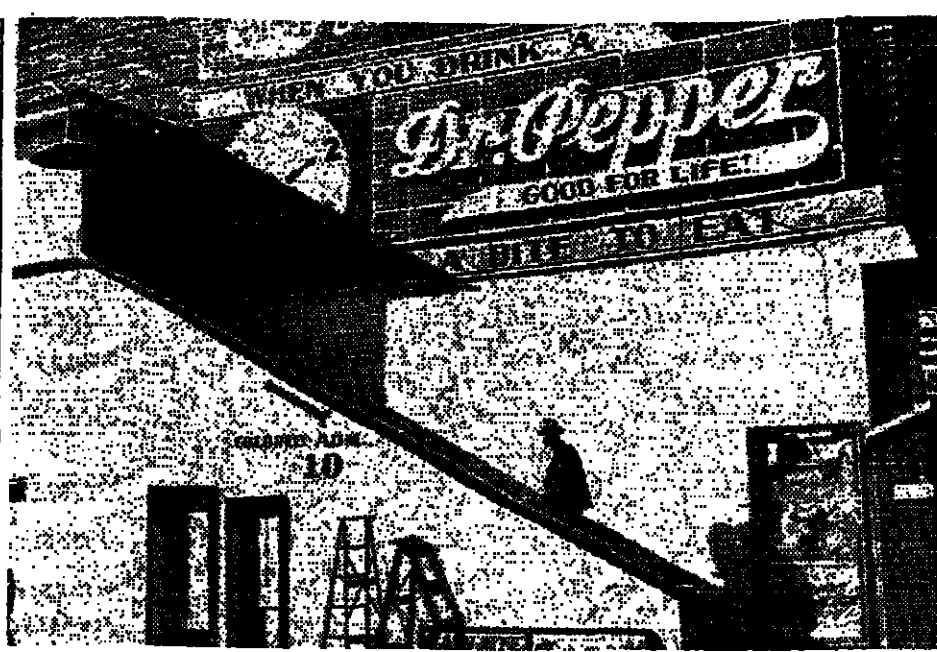
★ **THE GOOD FIGHT (PG):** A straightforward documentary about American participation in the Spanish Civil War, mixing archive footage and interviews with survivors of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. Narrated by Sturt Teakel (80 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **JUMPING JACK FLASH (15):** Whoopee! Goldenberg takes on the CIA and MI6 in this farcical comedy directed by Penny Marshall (105 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **OVER THE TOP (PG):** Perfect for the drama featuring Sylvester Stallone as an arm-wrestling truck driver who tries to get to know his neglected son during a cross-country road trip (93 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

★ **THE FURY (PG):** A cross-country road trip (93 min). Procs 1.10, 3.35, 6.05, 8.40.

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Racial segregation in the American deep south is reflected in this 1939 photograph of a negro entering a cinema by the "colored" entrance. The picture was taken in Belzoni, Missouri, by Marion Post Wolcott, one of eight women hired by the government Farm Security Administration project to compile a photographic record of American life. With colleagues like Dorothy Lange, she explored the America of dust bowls, ghost towns and the rural poor. Lange's photograph of the destitute pea-pickers in California in 1936 is one of the most powerful social documentary pictures ever taken. It has become a symbol of American depression when thousands of farmers were forced from their land and became migrants. The photographs went beyond their ostensible documentary purpose and became a form of propaganda, demonstrating to the authorities the urgent need for rural rehabilitation. Most of the political propaganda was contained in the photographs taken by the women who joined the Office of War Information in the 1940s. Prosperity was returning and the country was being put on a war footing. There was a shift in the mood of the photographs toward a more positive image. The exhibition, "Let Us Now Praise Famous Women", offers a fascinating glimpse of American life and is an invaluable source of documentary evidence for the period. It is accompanied by a soft-back book by Andrea Fisher (Penguin £9.95) where the accessibility of the photographs is almost offset by the beauty of the original. National Museum of Photography, Prince's View, Bradford (0274 727488) until July 19.

Michael Young

GALLERIES

★ **NARRATIVE PAINTING:** A survey of pictures that tell stories. Various to the more mysterious, autobiographical outpourings of modernists like Andrej Jakovlev and Ken Kiff. City Museum and Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth (0752 688000). Tue 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, free, until June 1.

★ **MUSIC WITH TURNER:** The first series of concerts in the Turner Gallery, housing Turner's paintings, continues with Steven Laster's playing Beethoven's Cello Sonata Op 102 No 1. Schumann's Adagio and Allegro Op 70. The Endellion Quartet performs Beethoven's Quartet Op 127. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 3131). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 2.

★ **ART IN EUROPE:** Four German and four Dutch artists, whose works have been described as obscure and unworthy, show what the younger continentals have to offer. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (01-821 3131). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2-5pm, free, until June 2.

★ **TOM PHILLIPS:** Prints and graphics, celebrating this clever artist's 50th birthday. Various to the more mysterious, autobiographical outpourings of modernists like Andrej Jakovlev and Ken Kiff. City Museum and Art Gallery, Drake Circus, Plymouth (0752 688000). Tue 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-5pm, free, until June 1.

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★ **LA TRAVIATA:** The Geneva team of Rochard/Morley has provided Opera North with a handsome and thoughtful Verdi production, now continuing its run with Sherr Greenwald in the title role. New Theatre, Kingston Square, Hull (0420 24633). 7.15-9.15pm, £3.50-£14.50.

OPERA

★ **COMPANY WEEK:** Tonight's concert in the latest season by guitarist Derek Bailey's collection of free improvisers features two virtuosi, Lee Konitz (alto saxophone) and Barre Phillips (bass). Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, London W1 (01-836 2132). 8pm, £3.50.

JAZZ

★ **CECILIA WALTON TRIO:** Literate post-bop piano, somewhere between Herbie Hancock and Bill Evans in approach. Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Firth Street, London W1 (01-436 0747). 9.30pm, £2 (£2 members).

★ **NUCLEUS:** Trumpeter Ian Carr with the latest edition of his pioneering jazz-rock group. Newcastle Playhouse (091 232 3421). 7.30pm, £4.50.

★ **BRIGHTON JAZZ:** Tonight's festival attraction is Al Cohn, graduate cum laude of the Lester Young academy of the tenor saxophone. Concorde Club, Madeira Drive, Brighton (0273 506840). 8.30pm, £4.

ROCK

★ **THE RAINMAKERS:** Recently in the UK Top 20 with "Let My People Be", the quartet from Kansas City plays an early part of modern rock roots. Astoria, 157 Charing Cross Road, London WC2 (01-437 1801). 7.30pm, £5.

★ **SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK:** The acappella vocal group from Washington DC, led by Bernice Reagen. From firm gospel foundations, they build a towering musical edifice comprising jazz, blues, soul and social comment. Assembly Rooms, 54 George Street, Edinburgh (031 225 3641). 8.30pm, £2-£3.50.

★ **HURRAH!** Start of a handful of dates by the much lauded pop-rock group to promote their latest single, "How Many Rivers". Barbican, 220 Broad Street, Birmingham (0242 679407). Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Wed 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-3pm, free, until June 8.

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★ **THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM:** Lecture by Eric North. Rotherham Library, Borough Hill Street, London SE1, 7.30pm (refreshments 7pm).

★ **THE LIONEL ROBBINS MEMORIAL LECTURES:** The Political Economy of Hunger, lecture by American economist, London School of Economics, Houghton Street, London WC2. 5.30pm.

★ **LIVING AROUND THE CALEDONIAN MARKET 1918-1938:** Talk by Mary Kennedy. Camden Market, Camden Passage, London N1 (01-226 3952). 8pm, 50p.

★ **AFGHANISTAN:** Lecture by ITN newsreader Sandy Gall, including a slide show. Portland Building Lecture Hall, Nottingham University, Nottingham, 1.15pm, free (collection for Afghan appeal).

★ **BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER MODEL VILLAGE GOLDEN JUBILEE:** 50 years since the work famous model village was opened and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was crowned. The village celebrates today with a pageant and procession by local schoolchildren in 1937 costume re-enacting the coronation procession. Burton OTW Water, Gloucestershire. Model village open all day.

★ **WEST OF ENGLAND ANTIQUES FAIR:** Full range of antiques for sale from clocks and barometers to tapestries and furniture. Assembly Rooms, Alfred Street, Bath. Today 11am-9pm, tomorrow 10am-6pm. Fri 11am-7pm, Sat 11am-5pm.

★ **MADE IN LONDON SERIES:**

THE ARTS

Classes of sex

The Page Three Debate on Open Space (BBC2) took Bel Mooney, Ken Livingstone, Linda Lusardi et al to Girton College, Cambridge, to worry out loud on the desirability of "provocative" photographs in the tabloids. With the possible exception of the chairman, Janet Street-Porter, none of those taking part seemed likely to read.

This last the affair a quizical aspect. Whether for or against censorship, all that the speakers could say with any conviction was that they were experts on their own opinions — which in most cases proved to be a *richesse* of chestnuts. Despite itself, this dubious event wound up into a

TELEVISION

stimulating shooting match between a righteously angry agit-prop feminist and a middle-class student who (as he kept trying to point out) was voting on the same side as her. So the most fruitful tension was that of class, after all, and not sex.

One of the emptiest gripes voiced at Girton was the complaint that newspaper barons publish pin-ups in order to make money. Following on the same channel, *Horizon* examined the economics of the genetic urge — of sexual "investment strategies" to get the best deal for the individual's genes.

A male beetle seduced his intended with the gift of a disgusting-looking ball of saliva; a spider turned up at his love nest bearing a dead fly. Like rubberized chimney stacks, a pair of bull elephants seals backed lumps out of each other to disperse the privilege of imposing themselves on the understandably mournful-looking cows.

These illustrations of the tricks to which various species resort fully justified the programme's air time, but the concluding message for mankind was a classic of banality. Apparently "surveys show" that females are attracted to evidence of power in males. Apparently pretty girls and rich men see eye-to-eye on this question.

War on Drugs (Granada) inaugurated three consecutive nights of confrontations with hypothetical dilemmas. The strength of the format, which consists of a series of events being suggested by a "moderator" to a mixed bag of professionals in the same field, is that it provides an authentic portrait of a complex system at work, with all its paradoxes and contradictions teased out on camera.

Last night Jane Belson proposed typical cases of heroin addicts badgering the medical agencies of the provincial town of Skagborough for increased supplies. "They want something the drug can't produce," observed a psychiatrist, acutely enough, in the middle of a debate on how to liberalize prescription options. Less acutely, several of the participants collided in enriching the language with something called a "re-look".

Martin Cropper

66 When I met him, she didn't really know who John was. ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF SGT. PEPPER

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A revelation of the light fantastic

GALLERIES

A Clear View: The Belgian Luminist Tradition
Whitford and Hughes

Frank Craig 1874-1918
Maas

Pointillists, Divisionists or Neo-Impressionists, in that they paint in little dots of colour — often progressively bigger as we move into the 1900s — which are intended to coalesce at a distance.

Quite frequently they do so very satisfactorily: there are two splendid Leon de Smet's, both dating from as late as 1914, *Arbre au bord d'une riviere*, which creates its sun-drenched effect with great blobs of colour, and *Contemplation*, which manages a contrasted effect of muted interior light with dots as small as even Seurat could have required. There is a wonderful Alfred William Finch (British family, Belgian birth, settled in Finland — if you could imagine a more effective formula for ensuring posthumous obscurity), called *Boats at Sea*. And there is a Rysselberghe portrait called *The Pink Ribbon* which, however you dodge and bob, resolutely goes on looking slightly like one of those Graham Dean paintings of people with extraordinary tropical skin diseases.

But though all of these painters are, as the label implies, preoccupied with the rendering of light, they find many different ways of doing it. Leon Frederic, for example, opts in *The Fragrant Air*



Pointilliste, Divisionist or Neo-Impressionist: the dots coalesce in Leon de Smet's *Still Life with Azalea*

for, particularly in the girl's face, an obsessive, almost Pre-Raphaelite accumulation of detail, whereas the flowers which surround her are painted with varying degrees of freedom. Henri Evenepoel in his *Le Mendiant arabe* goes in a completely different direction, creating an extraordinary silhouette in myriad browns against a plain grey patch of wall.

Georges Lemman's brilliantly coloured *Le Carrousel* steadfastly refuses to be fitted into any obvious school: there are dots and swirls of paint to enliven a composition which fundamentally has more in common with Nabi principles of tapestry or mosaic-like construction. There is also, for good measure, a characteristic

mask-painting by Ensor, *Pierrot et squelettes*, which, as was Ensor's way, stands rather aside from the rest, and is representative only of himself.

Most of these painters are, in Belgium at least, relatively big names, however unfamiliar all except Ensor may be to us. But some of the show's most distinctive pleasures come from much less documented painters like Evariste Gustave de Buck, whose *Les Ecotiers*, placing the boys against a dazzling background of sunny water, almost steals the show, and Arthur Navez, whose *The Blue Hat*, set in a hat shop which is the scene of femininity, 1917-style, is rich in colour and stunningly confident in its use of a mirror

image which reveals itself as such only on careful inspection. Whether these manifold delights will persuade conservative Britons to invest in painters they do not know from Adam is another question. But one suspects that Belgian enthusiasts will be posting into London as soon as possible, and will find much that comes as a surprise and an illumination even to them.

Of course research need not always be of this heavyweight variety to be worth doing, and worth doing well. Jeremy Maas is well known as one of our prime scholar-dealers, and we owe to him a lot of what we know about the byways, and even some

highways, of Victorian art in England. The current show at his gallery until the end of the week, Frank Craig 1874-1918, reveals the outfit in lighter mood. Craig was a capable academic painter, bought by the Chantry Bequest in 1906 — the show includes a photograph of him putting the finishing touches to some giant historical composition — but the aspect of his work represented here is entirely illustrative.

He worked extensively for *The Graphic* in England between 1895 and 1903, and covered the Boer War for the magazine; in 1910 he went to New York, primarily to work for *Harper's Magazine*, and stayed there for two years. All of the pictures here are pencil drawings coloured with grisaille washes in watercolour, all ready to be reproduced in the curiously muddy and depressing black-and-white most magazines affected at the time. They are illustrations to the fiction of such as E. Phillips Oppenheim, Hall Caine and — at the top of the heap, obviously — Arnold Bennett. (It must have been fun to root out, as Simon Houff has done, the precise passages pictured.) And, even if the reproduced versions must have been very muted, the originals really sparkle.

It may be partly nostalgia for the glamorous high life of the 1900s depicted therein. But Craig has more to offer than that: he has a remarkably dramatic sense of how to put a picture together, almost at times like a frame from a film, and his eye for quirky detail is always in evidence. There is usually more than enough to look at in the foreground, but some of his best *opercas* are in the background, devoted to bored waiters or casual onlookers. Quite right too, in a world where, almost inevitably, the butler did it.

John Russell Taylor

Choreographic courage

DANCE

John Percival on the progress of the young Monte Carlo Ballet

During the 16 months since I reported on their opening programmes, the new Ballets de Monte Carlo have added a good many works to their repertoire but have given very few performances of any of them, since the Principality can support only short seasons of perhaps four or six performances at a time, and bookings elsewhere have not been easy to obtain for an unknown small company, even one with a name so famous in the past.

This is partly because of Ghislaine Thesmar's courage, as artistic director, in giving chances to unestablished choreographers. That way lie risks, and also the possibility of rewards. If Thesmar can find a really brilliant new choreographer, the world will beat a track to the doors of the pretty little opera house next to the casino.

Her latest attempt was confided to Jean-Christophe Maillot, a young Frenchman who began his career as a dancer in Neumeier's Hamburg company and became director of ballet at Tours in 1983. His *Juliette et Roméo* for that company, to a commissioned score, caused enough of a stir to be invited to Paris earlier this season.

His new work for Monte Carlo is *The Miraculous Mandarin*, fitted out with a less implausible new plot about sexual fantasies which apparently restore a jaded relationship. The principal couple are seen first in a prologue to one of Bartók's youthful *Portraits*, called "The Ideal" — a slightly cynical choice one might think, but apt enough.



Wit and charm: Stéphant and Olivier in *The Two Pigeons*

Frédéric Olivier is the young man who slumps sulkily over the transparent table, Thesmar herself the woman left to gaze alone over the view or to dream dissatisfied on a long, low lounge. What she dreams makes the ballet's main action, with no fewer than seven doubles arriving to supplement her unsatisfactory lover's presence, and a white-clad stranger (Guillaume Graffin) to provide the contrast in attitude that eventually reconciles the pair.

The psychology is perhaps no deeper than the plots in stories in the better sort of women's magazine, but it serves to get Bartók's great score staged without so much sentimentality, or temptation to giggle, as usual, although the music was markedly underplayed by a too thin orchestra under Ivan Anguelov.

So far as Maillot is concerned, I think judgement on his potential must be suspended. He obviously has originality and an ability to suggest character and feelings in movement; whether he can sustain interest simply through his dance invention is not proved by this example. You could hardly have a greater contrast than the

company's other premiere given the same weekend: Ashton's *Two Pigeons*, being done for the first time in Monte Carlo or in France. (By coincidence there is a rare opportunity to see the old traditional French version of the ballet this month at the Opéra Comique in Paris.) Robert Mead, who played the gypsy girl's lover at the creation of Ashton's ballet, was responsible for the production, and although one could quibble over details (how did the hero's sketch-pad get changed into an artist's palette, for instance?) it is pretty authentic in mood as well as in movement.

Yannick Stéphant plays the girl with wit and *soignée* charm, Olivier likewise as her young man. Lorena Bartella, as the glamorous gypsy, does not jump so high nor circle the stage so fast as some we have seen, but the fun and bravura of the ballet are all there from the whole cast. But I missed the underlying seriousness which one finds in the best of the Royal Ballet's casts. Even in their reconciliation duet, Stéphant and Olivier still give the impression that they are playing with emotions. It looks very sweet, but my eyes were dry at the end.

If ever there was a cautionary tale of private enterprise allowed to run wild, it is J. MacDougall Hay's 1914 novel *Gillespie*. Gillespie Strang, inheritor to a West Highland fishing village in the 1860s, gradually ensnares the economic life of the whole community by a combination of sharp practice and naked avarice. The adaptor Bryan Elsley and the director Mervyn Fullerton have made an impressive stab at encompassing the broad sweep of the novel for Bordenline Theatre.

The first half does suffer from an indigestible amount of incident and information. In the less cluttered conclusion, the characters are given space to breathe and there is some thrilling theatre as the widow Mrs Callbraith (a composite character from the book, played with dignity and enor-

GLASGOW MAYFEST

Gillespie
Tron

The Gorbals Story
Citizens'

mous power by Juliet Cadzow) inspires the men to burn the fleet which is now mortgaged over to Gillespie, the beginning of his downfall.

The other outstanding performance comes from Alison Peebles as Gillespie's wife, whose descent into drink-sodden wretchedness, responding to her husband's callous neglect, is almost unbearably distressing.

CONCERTS

LSO/Tate
Barbican

To do justice to this memorable concert is impossible. Jeffrey Tate juxtaposed two seemingly unrelated works, Brahms's Third Symphony and Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, and in so doing made only one significant error: he permitted the London Symphony Chorus to listen to the Brahms from the platform, which did the orchestral balance no good at all.

Nevertheless, for their later contributions, the singers deserved their treat, for a treat it was. This was a shapely reading of the shapeliest of works, characterized by spacious tempos which were saved from becoming sluggish by Tate's careful attention to rhythm. Indeed, it was almost as if the work interpreted itself. Yet it was full of fine detail, with the LSO clearly sensing that there was something special in the air.

In the Mozart, Tate displayed a thrilling mixture of similarly thorough preparation and invigorating spontaneity, and his chorus responded with a superbly disciplined yet highly charged performance of what the textbooks say is an archaic style of counterpoint. The orchestra, now reduced to chamber proportions, with the exception of the three trombones, were equally good.

And Tate had another advantage, for his four vocal soloists, Arleen Auger, Sheila Armstrong, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Willard White, although heard together only in the "Benedictus", displayed there the invaluable but rare ability to listen to each other, and were always ready to give way in the interests of well-balanced ensemble.

Individually, Auger's "Christe eleison" may have shown a touch more poise than Armstrong's "Landamus te", while in their duet, "Domine Deus", Armstrong strained rather for her top notes. No matter, for both voices sounded radiant, and the whole performance was one that could not have failed to uplift even the most cynical listener, or to make one marvel anew at the miracle of this incomparable yet intensely satisfying masterpiece.

Stephen Pettitt

Dorati's failure to select, point and lead more authoritatively in accompaniment did not auger well for the Fourth Symphony. He seemed curiously distant from both the work itself and his players. With his strings ready and willing for the fray, he would be content to let rhythm brush lightly against counter-rhythm, and with wind and brass in the slow movement, he left them stranded on neutral ground. With the cellos' second subject being laboriously pushed, as it were, from behind, the ear was led to the violins, who played their counter-melody quite beautifully, and redeemed its return, if not the tedium of the performance as a whole.

Hilary Finch

The *Liebeslieder-Walzer* may be a beginning overture for a summer Sunday evening of Brahms; but it is not quite the work to generate a head of steam for the music of the composer's later years. As it turned out, the orchestral version, which already tints the waltzes with more than a hint of *Gemütslichkeit*, was softened still more by the singing of Carol Lesley-Green, Susan Parry, Christopher Ventris and David Ashman; it was rather like too much *Kirschtorte* at an English garden party.

Antal Dorati was obviously starting as he meant to go on. Both the Double Concerto and the Fourth Symphony were at best genial, at worse bland performances. Josef Suk and Janos Starker are natural and highly sympathetic chamber musicians; their duetting in the first movement of the concerto could have carried on all night as far as I was concerned. But this gently astute, unassertive musician-

Across the Clyde, Robert McLeish's 1946 play of life in the Glasgow tenements, *The Gorbals Story*, is being revived in about the only building still standing from the original Gorbals, the Citizens' Theatre. *Gillespie* and *The Gorbals Story* supposedly share the same vantage-point in Scottish writing, an unromantic but realistic portrayal of the working classes. The play's original *succès de fou* can be attributed to its affectionate and accurate picture of a day in the life of a tenement building and its diverse inhabitants, and some very good one-liners, rather than any inherent strength as a piece of drama.

Clearly it still appeals; the show was sold out in Glasgow before it opened. However, given its impeccable working-class credentials — the director a one-time steelworker, David

Hayman, and the production company 7:84, the self-styled Scottish Peoples' Theatre — it comes as quite a surprise to find this production such a sentimental, nostalgic warm bath.

I was beginning to think that even Mr Hayman's acknowledged skills could not surmount the weaknesses of the play. But in the one really ugly moment, at the very end, after McLeish's text has finished, Hayman has the tenements boarded up and brings one young couple from the play into 1987 still bemoaning the scandalous housing shortage in Glasgow. It was as if to say "We were poor then but at least we were happy": hardly radical stuff.

Robert Dawson
Scott



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Indians question bill for Hermes

By Michael Evans
Defence Correspondent

HMS Hermes, the Royal Navy's old warhorse that played her most glorious role as the flagship of the British task force during the Falklands conflict in 1982, will be officially handed over to the Indian navy today although the whole deal almost ran aground at the last moment.

The veteran aircraft carrier, which is moored at Plymouth, will be formally transferred to the Indians by Mr Archibald Hamilton, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Defence Procurement.

She will be gratefully received by the Indian High Commissioner, Dr P. C. Alexander, although Hermes will not sail off to the East until later this year.

But according to sources yesterday, the Indians stumbled over paying for all the work done to the carrier. The Ministry of Defence said they could not have Hermes until the money had been paid.

Last night, ministry officials were keeping their fingers crossed that today's ceremony would go ahead as planned.

There also seemed to be some confusion over the total sale price. The High Commissioner yesterday said that the deal, which included a full refit, was costing them £40 million. "This is the figure we're going on."

But Royal Navy sources said they thought the sale price came to over £60 million. One source involved in the negotiations with the Indians said: "It's a rock bottom price."

Although Hermes will officially become Indian Naval Ship (INS) Virat today, the total sale price, whatever it is, has not yet been paid.

An official at the High Commission in London said: "Whatever bills have been presented to us, we have paid. If the work has been done. But we have to be satisfied with the work."

A spokesman for the MoD said: "We're optimistic that the hand-over will carry on as normal. We cannot comment on the cash arrangement for commercial and confidential reasons."

The Indian government agreed to buy Hermes last year, in spite of criticism from one Indian opposition MP, Mr Suresh Kalmadi, that the aircraft carrier was "junk that had failed to find a buyer anywhere in the world".

The 28-year-old carrier came close to disaster in the Falklands campaign when the Argentines launched an Exocet missile attack on the merchant ship, Atlantic Conveyor. Hermes was not far away from the doomed ship.

When she returned from the war, there were fears that she might have to be scrapped. But after rumours that the Chileans were interested, the Indians stepped in.

The next Royal Navy ships to be sold or scrapped are the old Leander class frigates HMS Naiad and HMS Aurora.

Confident Cabinet steps out smiling



The election phoney war is over and the relief and confidence of Mrs Thatcher's ministers is evident as they emerged from yesterday's Cabinet meeting at No 10 Downing Street. From left: Lord Young, Mr Paul Channon, Lord Whitelaw, Mr Michael Jopling and Mr Norman Fowler.

Thatcher goes for third win

Continued from page 1

Interest rates are down 2 per cent in recent months and are likely to come down again during the campaign, forcing the building societies to make a further reduction in mortgage rates, though that would not be implemented during the campaign.

The one impending announcement which arouses some nervousness among Tory MPs is that of the trade figures, due on May 28. Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, forecast a deficit for the current year of £2.5

STRENGTH OF PARTIES

Conservatives	391
Labour	204
Alliance (19 Liberal, 8 SDP)	27
Ulster Unionists	10
Ulster Democratic Unionists	3
Scottish Nationalists	3
Plaid Cymru	2
SDLP	2
Irish Republican	1
Provisional Sinn Féin	1
Independent	1
Speaker, 3 deputies	4
Vacant seats	2

billions and although recent trade figures have been in the black, opposition spokesmen predict a balance of payments crisis around the corner.

A bad set of trade figures would lend support to their claim and strengthen opposition accusations that the Government is "cutting and running" because of bad economic news to come.

Labour plans to keep up the attack on the "secret manifesto" which it claims the Government will implement if it wins another election, including the imposition of VAT on food, children's clothing, books and publications.

All three party leaders have a great deal at stake. Mrs

Thatcher would not be easily forgiven by her party if her gamble failed and she turned out to have deprived them of a year of office for no good reason.

The whole future of the Labour Party will come in doubt if it were to lose a third election in a row and Mr Kinnoch's position might be at risk if the party was badly beaten as in 1983.

As for the Alliance leaders, Mr David Steel and Dr David Owen, there must be severe doubts how much longer they would be able to maintain three party politics if the Alliance did not significantly increase its total vote and MPs.

The Conservatives, who accept that the lesson of the local elections is that a Tory victory on June 11 is probable rather than inevitable are anxious to dispel any complacency among supporters. Mrs Thatcher insisted yesterday that this was an election victory which had to be fought for all the way.

As they have been doing since the carefully orchestrated party conference last year, ministers will be attempting to demonstrate that this is not an administration that has run out of ideas. The Conservative manifesto will stress the radical nature of plans to revolutionize education, housing and the inner cities, with more power taken out of the hands of local bureaucrats and put into the hands of teachers, parents, tenants and developers.

At the same time, they will stress the advantage of creating a wider share-owning democracy with further council house sales and more privatization of state industries.

Labour, heartened by a

UK VOTING JUNE 1983

	% vote	Seats
Conservatives	13,012,802	42.4
Labour	8,457,124	27.6
SDP/Lib Alliance	7,780,587	25.4
Scott Nat/Plaid Cymru	457,204	1.6
Others	963,308	3.1

Of an electorate numbering 42,197,344, there were 30,670,905 voters, a turnout of 72.7 per cent

much better organization and presentation than in 1983, will produce a much slimmer manifesto with carefully costed promises. Everything beyond a £3.6 billion programme to tackle poverty, financed by increased taxes on individuals earning more than £25,000 a year, and a £6 billion plan to cut unemployment by one million within two years will have to wait its turn until manufacturing industry has been stimulated.

The party is pledged to reverse Mr Lawson's 2p tax cut and will concentrate on promises to tackle the basic issues of employment, health, education and housing. Mr Kinnoch challenged Mrs Thatcher to a television debate, a challenge she intends to refuse.

The Labour leader dismissed his low standing in the opinion polls by saying that Mrs Thatcher had hardly been hailed as a saviour when first elected.

Labour's campaign strategists believe that Mr Kinnoch, an effective performer on television, will improve his standing considerably during the campaign. They also argue that Labour will benefit from the fact that television and radio will be a crucial factor and that they are bound statutorily to give Labour an equality of opportunity it does not receive in the Press.

Labour believes it can close the gap on the Conservatives

and it will continue to push the theme enunciated by Mr Kinnoch yesterday: "People can protest about Mrs Thatcher by voting for just about anyone. They can only elect Mrs Thatcher by voting Labour."

The Alliance, heartened by its recovery in the opinion polls since the Greenwich and Truro by-elections and a more limited advance in the local government elections, is encouraged to be starting this election with the level of support with which it finished the last. Both the Liberals in 1979 and the Alliance in 1983 succeeded in putting up their vote by a third during the election campaign.

The Tories' chief fear is that a declining Labour vote would make it harder for them to make Conservative wavers from moving to the Alliance with the cry that that would let Labour in.

Realistically, Alliance leaders are hoping for no more than a share in a coalition government in a hung Parliament. Mrs Thatcher and Mr Kinnoch have ruled out the idea of any deals if they were the largest party but did not have a majority.

The Alliance will be campaigning for a change in the electoral system to proportional representation, for a more open society and for greater social spending than the Tories.

Moscow 'is praying for Labour'

Continued from page 1

story of the reasons for the unfortunate timing of his arrival.

Asked whether it was true, as has been widely suggested in Western diplomatic circles here, that Mr Mikhail Gorbachev would prefer a government led by Mrs Thatcher than one headed by Mr Neil Kinnoch, Mr Healey responded angrily: "No. Absolutely not."

"I think that the Russians are praying for a Labour victory... praying is perhaps an unfortunate choice of words. I think that they would much prefer a Labour government and that the idea that they would prefer a Tory government, I think is utter bunkum, and they authorized me to say so."

Pressed to name who had given the authorization, he refused to disclose the identity of the official. He did, however, point out that Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Kremlin spokesman, had earlier rejected the same suggestion.

The press conference followed immediately after Mr Healey had finished discussions with Mr Anatoly Dobrynin, the former Soviet Ambassador in Washington and now Mr Gorbachev's leading foreign policy adviser. Today Mr Healey is to meet Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, before returning to London, where he is due to make a key foreign policy speech on Saturday.

Commons sketch

Cheerio! We're all silly billies

It was a funny sort of day. Everyone was a little over-excited. Maybe it would all end in tears.

Early on in the afternoon, Nicholas Baker, one of the Blue Gang, asked the Minister for the Arts whether he agreed with some of the Red Gang that the works of Miss Enid Blyton were subversive.

Gosh! That was a question as old as ginger pop that had lost its bubbles. You see, no-one really knew what to chat about after the news that had come from the Big House earlier in the day.

The lady at the Big House had sent a message that she was "graciously pleased to signify that she will comply with this request". That means Yes, nodded the Reds and the Blues. Margaret ("not her again!") groaned every-one had made the request. It was to stop the game and round up a better gang.

The Blue Gang were jumping with joy. But the Red Gang were very down in the dumps. Just when we were in the middle of a game! they yawned.

Now that they all knew it was coming to an end, they just spent their time kicking stones at one another. Albert McQuarrie from the Blues called George Foulkes "You stupid man!" and pointed his finger at him quite rudely.

Dennis the Menace (Bolsover) was the only member of the Red Gang who didn't seem glum at all. Not one little bit. Perhaps he was trying to wipe those tears away off the cheeks of his pals by poking fun at the rival gang.

"Two for the chop! Two for the chop!" he exclaimed, pointing at Mr Walker and Mr Hunt from Energy. That wasn't very nice, was it? Not after what Peter and David had just said about how they had gone digging and how they had found lots and lots.

The Red Gang had said they were rotten liars but they looked as if they didn't care one little bit.

"Two for the chop!" yelled Dennis again. Dennis always said his jokes again, so that those who hadn't giggled the first time might have a second chance. But none of his gang was in much mood for jests.

Not many of the Oranges had turned up at all, and young David Alton was in a terrible tantrum. He was cross that the game was stopping before it had finished and he said that it wasn't fair and that when he was in charge he'd make them play right to the end.

"Frit! Frit! Frit!" exclaimed the Blues. Sometimes, pondered David, they copy Margaret so much they'll all soon be trying on her dresses and pretending to actually be her.

What with everyone being such a silly-billy, even Mr Speaker made a slip of the tongue when he called old Mr Stokes "Colonel Stokes", but Mr Stokes didn't seem to mind. Mr Stokes said he agreed with Dizzy when he said "Trust the people".

But not all the Blues were so happy. Old Sir Kenneth Lewis was in a right old grump. This was the first he'd heard of the game being called off, he moaned, and he didn't like the timing one bit. It meant that he wouldn't get his pocket money over the summer, he groaned.

Another Blue was upset about something quite different. Colin Moynihan said that a book he'd been reading called *The Millman's On His Way* was depraved and corrupt and would undermine family life. Had the Minister got his very own copy yet? he wondered.

Naughty Dennis jumped to his feet and booted at the top of his voice that, talking about the arts in the East Midlands, why didn't the Blues give the brass bands more pocket money because they had to spend an awful lot leading marches against the Blues?

Everyone was full of mischief. A look at the coal mines showed "stunning proof of one nation" gasped a Blue. A Red talked about how his gang would be in power in a month's time, and another was in a very bad mood because there were only two British lady ambassadors in the whole wide world.

Three more days to go, three more days tomorrow. And then they'd be starting the biggest adventure of them all. Cheerio! Cheerio! Cheerio! **Craig Brown**

Government sacrifices most of Finance Bill

Continued from page 1

But tough new powers giving courts power to confiscate the proceeds of big crime, stiffer penalties for insider dealing, life sentences for possessing firearms, the tightening of extradition arrangements, abolition of the right of jurors to perjury challenge, and powers for the Attorney General to draw attention to controversially lenient sentences, all had to be dropped last night. Ministers made clear that they would be reintroduced immediately in the event of a Conservative election victory.

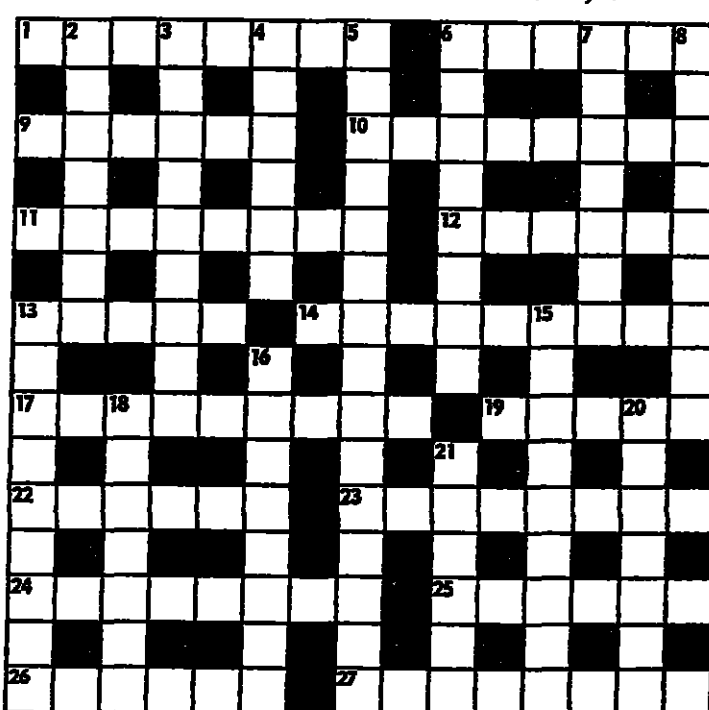
Senior opposition peers argued against large parts of the

Bill being pushed through without proper debate and scrutiny.

Even before the Local Government Bill was introduced into Parliament Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for the Environment, had omitted from it important proposals to bring more competition into local authority services and to curb abuses of left-wing councils.

Under the deal forged yesterday he lost further proposals, notably on private finance for public housing. He salvaged the plan to curb deferred purchase schemes used by local authorities to get round government spending controls.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,354



- ACROSS**
- Soft pulp with space to grow rapidly (8).
 - A youngster embraced her — an innocent child (6).
 - Exactly right character to be detailed for reconnaissance (6).
 - Trains make scheduled trip back, taking in the old town (8).
 - Poisonous tree? The French incinerate them, some say (8).
 - Is third man a yellowish-grey colour? (6).
 - 50% hire-purchase? By no means (5).
 - A new device about right for an icy area (9).
 - Starting time for Grundy's joint venture (9).
 - A once-calamitous waste of water (8).
 - Producer of writing (page one in enclosure) (6).
 - Male lexicographer with roots in South America (8).
 - Pansy's love in such a useless state? (8).
 - Leading artist is first to earn commendation (6).

- DOWN**
- In ignorance of universal directions to contain a conflict (7).
 - So strong, he can rule freely (9).
 - Former pupil with lanky figure (6).
 - Stoneworker's mother, great at first with child (10,5).
 - Quartet participating in sensual festivities (8).
 - Half-cooked morsel of food (7).
 - Two fellows take in many belonging to a church (9).
 - On which many press stories have appeared (9).
 - Bird, fish or insect (9).
 - Instrument for effecting change in spy organization? (8).
 - Parts of old England and Wales, perhaps? Not entirely (7).
 - Counsellor reads novel about Virgin Islands (7).
 - He picks off birds on the river (6).

Concise crossword, page 10

WEATHER

General situation: A cool and showery north to north-westerly airflow covers all parts. Maximum temperatures will be from 8C (46F) in the north to 15C (59F) in the south. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have a cool breezy day with sunshine and showers, hail in the north. North-west England and North Wales will be dry and sunny with a few showers. The east, Midlands and the south will start the day dry and bright but it will quickly turn cloudy with some showers. South-west England, South Wales and the Channel Islands will start overcast with a little rain. Outlook for tomorrow and Thursday: Changeable with showers or longer rain, some bright spells.

ABROAD

Midday		5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
rarr; s; claud; s; druzet; f; learr; fig; fog; r;		rarr; s; claud; s; druzet; f; learr; fig; fog; r;																			
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Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET
FT 30 Share
1686.9 (+28.2)
FT-SE 100
2163.3 (+36.8)
Bargains
62147 (55938)
USM (Datastream)
172.44 (+1.91)

THE POUND
US dollar
1.6585 (-0.0155)
W German mark
2.9612 (-0.0136)
Trade-weighted
73.3 (-0.3)

Check on French ship 'aid'

The European Commission is looking into a complaint by Britain that France is unfairly subsidizing its shipbuilders and has undercut Glasgow's Govan shipyard for a £41 million contract to build a vessel for Brittany Ferries of France. (Richard Owen writes).

EEC officials said in Brussels yesterday that the Netherlands and Britain have provided the Commission with dossiers of information on the case.

Under EEC rules a member state may only subsidize 28 per cent of the cost of constructing a vessel. According to the complaint laid against France, the Govan Yard of British Shipbuilders, near Glasgow, had put in a tender of £41 million to build a new ferry for Brittany Ferries. But the French shipyard Chantiers Navals de l'Atlantique at St Nazaire, had sought to undercut this with the help of subsidies from the French Government.

UEI moves up
Profits of the UEI computer and engineering group rose £4 million to £17 million as forecast last month. Turnover was up £19.5 million to £115 million and the total dividend is raised from 5.5p to 5.7p. (Temple, page 20)

Peugeot soars
Peugeot's consolidated net income, excluding minority interests, surged last year to FF3.59 billion (£0.35 billion) from FF543 million in 1985. (Temple, page 20)

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2357.10 (+34.80)*
Dow Jones	2468.22 (+18.98)
Hong Kong	2846.93 (+41.87)
Amsterdam Gen	286.9 (+1.3)
Sydney AO	1820.9 (-6.2)
Frankfurt	1796.6 (+3.8)
Brussels	4630.90 (+37.44)*
Paris CAC	4326 (+2.8)
Zurich S&K Gen	595.8 (+2.8)
London FT 100	2163.3 (+36.8)
FT 30	1686.9 (+28.2)
Recent issues	Page 23
Closing prices	Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER:	
Grand Met	1428p (+38p)
Tate & Lyle	512p (+21p)
English China	809p (+19p)
Dele Electric	438p (+20p)
Hunting Assoc	133p (+19p)
Micro Scope	487p (+23p)
Thames TV	145p (+52p)
Chesaco	615p (+41p)
Castro	2815p (+30p)
N Brown Invests	554p (+24p)
Shell Transport	590p (+20p)
Minet Holdings	1305p (+25p)
Cable & Wireless	325p (+25p)
Hodgson Holdings	384p (+24p)
Miller Santhouse	293p (+22p)
	483p (+75p)

FALLS:	
Stone Intl	118p (-8p)
Low & Son	248p (-14p)
Extel Group	486p (-8p)
Cons. Gold	965p (-13p)

Prices are as at 4pm

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base:	9%
3-month interbank:	8.75-9%
3-month eligible bills:	8.75-9.25%
buying rate	
US: Prime Rate:	8%
Federal Funds:	5.75-6.25%
3-month Treasury Bills:	5.39-5.38%
30-year bonds:	10.1-10.1%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£1.6585	\$1.6585
DM2.9612	DM1.7870*
FF2.9659	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*
£1.6585	FF1.4785*

GOLD

London Fixing:	\$454.75-\$453.00
close \$454.25-\$454.75	(£273.50-274.00)
New York:	
Comex \$455.30-\$455.90*	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (June) pm \$18.70 (\$18.50)	
Denotes latest trading price	
Bus Summary	20 Foreign Exch 23
Co News	20 Money Mkts 23
Stock Market	20 Traded Opts 23
Wall Street	20 Commodities 23
City Diary	21 Unit Prices 23
Comment	21 L.S. Prices 23
Temple	20 Share Prices 25

Pound takes surprise fall

Profit-takers move in as poll date is fixed

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The pound recorded its first significant fall for several weeks yesterday, as it ran into profit-taking on the announcement of a general election for June 11.

Sterling's fall, which took market analysts by surprise, was sharpest against a recovering dollar. It fell by 1.55 cents to \$1.6585, as the dollar gained ground against all currencies.

And the pound, having been held down by Bank of England intervention against the mark yesterday morning, when it threatened to break above the DM3 level, ended 1.5 pence down at DM2.9612. The sterling index fell by 0.3 points to 73.3.

"The markets appear to have been following the rule of buy on the rumour, sell on the fact," said Mr David Morrison, international economist at Goldman Sachs.

Dealers said that the election announcement had prompted some unwinding of long sterling positions.

The profit-taking, while removing the pressure for another cut in base rates, appears to have taken the Bank of England by surprise. Dealers said that the Bank's intervention, while modest, was risky immediately before an unaided sterling fall.

Later in New York, the pound was unchanged against the dollar at \$1.6585, but eased further to DM2.977. Markets are still optimistic about sterling's prospects, but major uncertainties remain. Some foreign capital is likely to remain out of sterling assets during the election campaign.

It is also the case that the strength of domestic financial markets - with share prices up strongly yesterday - will not necessarily be reflected in movements into sterling across the exchanges.

The FTSE-100 index closed 36.8 points up at 2,163.3, having recorded a gain of 57 points at one stage during the day.

There was also some confusion yesterday about Britain's policy towards the European Monetary System. The Conservative Party, in its guidance to Parliamentary candidates, reiterated existing policy that the time is not ripe for membership of the exchange rate mechanism of the EMS.

But currency analysts expect that the Conservative Government, if re-elected, will seek to take sterling into

the EMS as a full member at an early date.

In a curious way, both versions of the EMS story appear to have hit the pound. No entry into the EMS at all removes a potential prop for the pound, dealers believe, while it is thought that entry soon after the election would be at a lower rate against the mark.

The dollar's rise yesterday reflected further assessments of last week's bond auctions and the stronger US employment data published last Friday. It rose from DM1.7890 to DM1.7975 and from Y139.55 to Y139.95.

But there is nervousness ahead of the March US trade figures, to be published on Thursday. These are expected to show a monthly deficit of less than the \$15.1 billion recorded in February.

In the London money markets, rates eased initially yesterday morning but rose slightly after the announcement of an election date, in line with the pound's weaker performance.

The three-month interbank rate closed unchanged at 8.75 per cent, although some of the longer rates eased down, suggesting that the markets expect further base rate reductions.

Consumer credit record

By Our Economics Correspondent

Consumer credit hit a record level in March, in spite of a slowdown in retail sales. The figures are likely to add to Bank of England caution about further reductions in base rates.

New credit advanced reached £3.238 billion in March, up from £2.948 billion in February. In the first quarter there was a 9 per cent increase in credit compared with the first three months of last year.

The strongest credit compo-

nent continued to be bank credit cards. Advances on credit cards rose to £1.42 billion, up from £1.28 billion in February. In the first quarter, they increased by 11 per cent.

Fixed sum credit from finance houses also soared in March, boosted by special deals offered by the motor manufacturers. In March, advances rose to £1.12 billion, from £1.03 billion in the previous month.

The Budget is likely to have boosted demand for consumer credit, holding out the prospect of lower interest rates and of tax cuts.

The amount of credit outstanding at the end of March was £24.89 billion, £485 million up on the end of February total. In the latest three months, credit outstanding rose by 5 per cent.

All categories of spending fell in March.

DTI takes action on greater powers for Takeover Panel

By Colin Narbrough

Mr Paul Channon, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, yesterday took immediate steps to strengthen the Takeover Panel and said he was considering tightening up the Companies Act in areas related to bid battles.

An order designating that the Panel should receive crucial regulatory information was made to Parliament yesterday, bringing the independent City watchdog on takeovers and mergers into the official network for swapping share information vital to the detection of City fraud.

Announcing the results of a three-month review of the Panel's operations in a Commons written reply, Mr Channon identified 16 measures to reinforce its ability to regulate.

He said: "The measures bring the Takeover Panel into a closer relationship with the regulatory arrangements established by the Financial Services Act. I believe this provides for effective and

flexible regulation of takeovers."

Mr Channon underlined that the measures would leave the non-statutory body's legal status intact, while linking it closer with the regulatory muscle of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Securities and Investments Board and the Stock Exchange.

The Panel has been criticized heavily for failing to detect fraudulent breaches of its own Takeover Code and faced demands from parts of Whitehall and the City for moves to limit its independence.

Mr Channon ordered the review in January after it became clear that serious breaches had occurred during the £2.6 billion bid for Distillers, the whisky-maker, by Guinness, the brewing and leisure group.

The main measures announced yesterday were:

● To allow the Panel to receive privileged information

on share dealing and activities linked to takeovers from the main regulatory authorities under the Financial Services Act.

● To make the SIB and self-regulatory organizations co-operate with Panel investigations, backed up where necessary by the DTI's investigative powers.

● To make SIB and SRO sanctions apply to practitioners whose breaches of the Code made them unfit for authorization.

● To encourage investment exchanges to adopt rules similar to the Stock Exchange's to enable disciplinary action on the basis of a Panel finding.

● To appoint an additional member, chosen by the Bank of England, to the Panel and add representatives of relevant SROs later this year.

● To issue a consultative document this summer on certain areas of the Companies Act which may require strengthening.

Cellnet and Vodaphone battle for subscribers

Overcrowding on the airwaves

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Racal-Vodaphone, the cellular radio telephone operator, has been told by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister for Information Technology, that it cannot have temporary access to 120 radio channels earmarked for a new pan-European cellular system. Vodaphone had asked for them to cope with a capacity problem.

But in a compromise move Mr Pattie is allowing the company short-term access to 40 channels in a band used in some other European countries for cordless telephones. Vodaphone will have to pay a rising premium on the licence fee for the facility which will be cut out at the end of this year by which time other channels will be available for cellular radio in Britain.

Mr Pattie's decision comes as a final effort is being made to sort out national differences on the future of the pan-European system. By leaving the channels earmarked for the proposed European system free he has avoided a potentially embarrassing situation as preparations go ahead for a crucial ministers meeting due in Bonn on May 19.

There are increasing hopes that France as well as West Germany will then back a narrow band digital cellular radio system

which has been accepted by other European countries. Approval for a £1 million project to establish a prototype for the new system was announced yesterday by Mr Pattie, involving British Telecom, Racal, the General Electric Company and Plessey.

But the 40-channel decision immediately saw the Vodaphone and Cellnet, the two key British contenders in cellular telephones at loggerheads on its effects. Vodaphone has about 75,000 subscribers, and Cellnet about 70,000 subscribers. Cellnet is 60 per cent owned by British Telecom and 40 per cent by Securicor, the security and distribution specialists.

Cellnet has argued strongly against Vodaphone getting the additional channels because it claims it would merely be bailing out Vodaphone. By spending £22 million on development Cellnet had been able to increase the carrying capacity of its existing channels sufficiently to cope with the rising demand, it maintained.

For both companies the cellular radio market has provided a boom of unexpected proportions. Demand for radio telephones in the first year of the cellular system was two and a half times more than had been anticipated, with the biggest traffic in London and the South-east.



Sir Peter Thompson: preparing for the inevitable step

NFC board seeks flotation mandate

By Teresa Poole, Business Correspondent

The board of the National Freight Consortium, which was privatized in 1982 in an employee-led buyout, plans to seek a mandate from the group's 21,000 shareholders at the next annual meeting to float the company on the Stock Exchange - but only when the directors consider the timing is right.

Sir Peter Thompson, chairman, said: "When we have got a mandate we have then got to prepare ourselves for flotation and decide when to go." He added that this was unlikely to be before the end of 1988.

Announcing this year's interim results which showed a 27 per cent increase in pretax profits to £16 million, Sir Peter said he still believed there was an inevitability in the flotation but that he wanted NFC to approach it "as a unified group of people."

At this year's annual meeting in January, shareholders followed the board's recommendation and voted against a listing during the current year. The board has now commissioned a detailed survey on employee opinion and will embark on an extensive educational programme towards the end of the year. Sir Peter said this would lead up to a motion at the next annual meeting which would empower the directors to go ahead with a flotation "when they thought best."

Mr John Mather, chief executive, said: "It is surprising how much ignorance there is. Some people believe they will

be forced to sell their shares." An original £1 stake in NFC is now worth £46 and about 6,000 employees have holdings worth more than £12,000 each, with a sizeable number approaching £100,000.

Sir Peter said: "The time will come when we have not got enough internal buying power and people will feel frustrated."

About £16 million worth of shares change hands each year on the four internal dealing days. A small number of institutional investors were brought in last autumn to widen the market but so far there have been no shares available for them because of high demand from employees.

For the 24 weeks to March 21, NFC increased turnover by 13 per cent to £394 million and saw a 24 per cent jump in operating profits to £25.6 million. The "best view" forecast for the full year is pretax profits of £47.8 million, an increase of 29 per cent, on turnover of £913.3 million.

The five acquisitions during the first half, including Dauphin Distribution Services in the US which has helped boost the proportion of overseas earnings to 17 per cent, will add sales of £99 million on an annualized basis.

The group is valued at about £400 million and is on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10. City analysts believe the shares could be worth up to half as much again as a public company.

News Int to raise £50m

News International, the worldwide publishing group, is raising £50 million via a Eurobond issue with warrants attached to cater for its ongoing funding needs. The bond, due June 9, 1992, and paying interest of 9%, is being issued at 100.5 per cent and will be listed in London. Each £1,000 bond has one warrant attached, exercisable into a non-callable 9% bond due 1994. The issue is guaranteed by News Corporation. The Eurobond issue is co-led by Credit Suisse First Boston and Samuel Montagu.

Careful check on Rolls-Royce applications

By Joe Joseph

Touche Ross, the accountancy firm, which is about to hand the Director of Public Prosecutions a dossier detailing indications of substantial attempts at fraud by applicants for shares in British Gas, has begun combing through the subscriptions for Rolls-Royce to pinpoint any similar illicit activity.

Any miscreants thrown up by the probe into Rolls-Royce will join a lengthening queue of investors who have been caught out by accountancy firms brought in to audit the Government's privatization issues.

Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "Touche Ross are examining various applications. We've asked Touche Ross to take every conceivable step."

A spokesman for the firm said it was still too early to draw any conclusions, adding: "It's certainly going to take longer than we thought because of the number of applicants the Rolls-Royce issue attracted."

The public offering for Rolls-Royce was heavily oversubscribed, with more than two million applying for shares even though many complained that they were unable to get hold of a prospectus. The 85p party paid shares, which start trading on the Stock Exchange on May 20, are changing hands on the unofficial "grey" market at a 50p premium at 135p.

The price has risen a further 10p since Friday, buoyed by the weekend's news that the issue was 9.4 times subscribed, confirmation that there will be an election on June 11 and yesterday's further boom on the stock market.

Touche Ross is using a team of 50 accountants and computer specialists and an IBM main frame computer to pin-

point suspected multiple applications in the Rolls-Royce offer. It will be using new methods arising from its experience during the auditing of last November's British Gas flotation.

Touche has put question marks against several thousand British gas applications. It will now be up to the DPP and Scotland Yard's Fraud Squad to mull over the evidence before deciding whether to take matters further.

An investigation into share applications for British Airways, focusing on all MPs and 2,500 leading City figures, is also coming to a head. Peat Marwick, McIntock, the accountancy firm, says it has completed its study into the BA subscription lists although the Department of Transport has not yet received a copy of the accountant's conclusions.

The checks were ordered by Mr John Moore, Secretary of State for Transport, after the scandal which erupted last month after Conservative MPs Mr Keith Best and Mr Eric Cockeram admitted filing more than one application for shares in British Telecom.

The DPP has decided not to pursue the case of Mr Cockeram but is still studying whether or not there are grounds for pressing charges against Mr Best.

Only one person, Mr Ahmed Khalid Wazir, has been charged so far in connection with the BA flotation. He will appear before Bow Street magistrates on June 5.

British Telecom was the first share issue in which it became illegal to file multiple applications. An investigation into the BT sale threw up 6,600 suspect application forms and netted 10 prosecutions.

Three people have also been charged with similar offences regarding the TSB flotation.

Extel shares fall after legal action

By Cliff Feltham

The shares in Extel Group, the news and information service, fell while the rest of the stock market roared ahead yesterday, unsettled by the legal action being taken against the company by Ladbroke Group, the betting shop chain.

Dealers fear that the case might force United News-papers to call off its £260 million takeover bid for Extel. The Extel shares fell 6p to 486p, just 5p above the cash alternative offered by Lord Stevens' newspaper group.

In contrast, Ladbroke - which last week issued a writ seeking to prevent Extel

from disseminating statements about its affairs - saw its shares recover a further 10p to 417p.

Both Extel - which is hotly denying the allegations that it is linked with the spate of rumours which unsettled the Ladbroke shares last week - and Ladbroke itself were maintaining silence over the affair yesterday.

Extel, however, did say it was "working" on plans to find a replacement for Boase Massim, Pollitt Business Communications, which has resigned shortly after being appointed to promote the group's racing service.

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BUSINESS SUMMARY

GEC in agreed £16m bid for Micro Scope

General Electric Company (GEC) is making an agreed cash bid for Micro Scope which values the data communications company at £16 million. The deal, which is being unanimously recommended by the Micro Scope board, could make GEC a dominant force in value-added networking systems which is a burgeoning market that Micro Scope in particular has exploited.

Micro Scope will continue to operate under its existing management as part of GEC's computer and software services activities. GEC is offering 150p cash for each ordinary share or there is an alternative loan note. There are irrevocable undertakings to GEC on about 61 per cent of the shares.

Bell issues \$500m bond

Bell Resources Financial Services of The Netherlands has launched a \$500 million (£294 million) convertible bond due in 2002, with an indicated coupon of 5 to 5½ per cent and par pricing, the lead manager Nomura International said yesterday. The issue, which will be sold in denominations of \$5,000 and \$50,000.

Dobson Park buys US firm

Dobson Park Industries, the mining equipment maker, is paying \$12.75 million (£7.6 million) for Revco Corporation, a manufacturer of electronic equipment for the aerospace and marine industries based in Wallingford, Connecticut. Revco, owned by Allied Signal Inc, made \$2.3 million profit last year on \$28 million turnover.

Import burden lifted

Mr Alan Clark, the Trade Minister, has welcomed a decision by Athens to drop an import deposit scheme that has affected exports of British consumer goods to Greece worth more than £100 million a year for the past 2½ years.

The Greek government imposed the scheme to cut its balance of payments deficit. It required non-interest bearing deposits equivalent to 40 to 80 per cent of the value of the imports to be placed with the central bank for six months. About 30 per cent of British exports to Greece were affected.

Coal output up 50%

British Coal's deep-mine output per man-shift was 3.65 tonnes in the week to May 2, a rise of 50 per cent on the level before the coal dispute. Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy (right) said yesterday. He had no immediate plans for privatizing coal, but was in favour of direct participation by employees.



Diploma lifts profits

A recovery is underway at Diploma, the electronic components to building supplies group, which recorded an unexpected downturn in half-year profits a year ago. In the six months to March 31, it made £6.226 million against £5.589 million last time, but it is still short of the £7.811 million earned in the first half of 1985.

The company chalked up a turnover of £50.99 million against £44.73 million and reported earnings per share of 6.6p after six months, against 6p. It is lifting the interim dividend from 1.25p to 1.5p.

STOCK MARKET

Election date lifts shares to a two-day gain of £15bn

By Michael Clark

The stock market was caught in the grip of election fever yesterday as Mrs Thatcher confirmed the date of the general election as June 11. Almost £7 billion was added to the value of quoted shares as they continued to reach fresh heights. This brings the total gain over the past two days to a staggering £15 billion.

Dealers described it as a "dream start" to the new, three-week account as prices raced away from the beginning in anticipation of the Prime Minister's announcement and the prospect of another half-point cut in base rates to 8½ per cent soon.

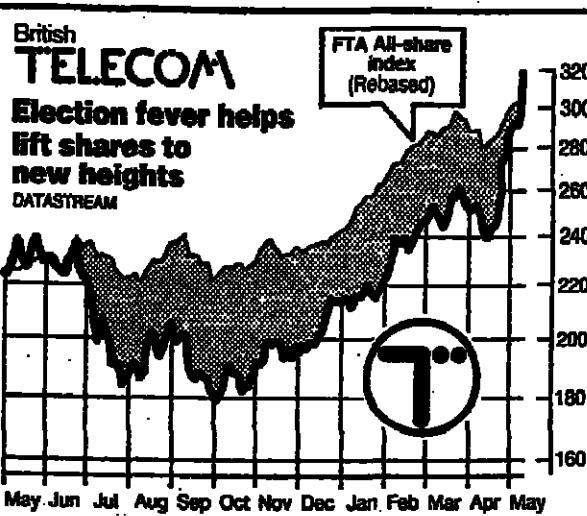
Double-figure gains were again seen among many blue chips, helped by another strong showing by the Government in the weekend opinion polls, although there was a sense of anti-climax after the date was confirmed as investors decided to take some of their profits.

The FT 30 share index, after breaking through the 1,700 level early on with a rise of 44.4, eventually closed 28.2 points up at a highest-ever 1,686.9.

The broader FT-SE 100 share index also finished 36.8 up, at a record 2,163.3, having been 57.4 higher at one stage. This takes its rise over the past couple of days to 85.4.

But, in the gilt-edged market, losses at the longer end stretched to £1½ after their recent strong run. Friday's announcement of another £1 billion top stock, plus the details of another £1 billion being offered for auction soon, has taken some of the steam out of the market.

The value of Britain's quoted companies has risen by £105.3 billion to £410.9 billion since the start of the year. But, despite fears that the market has come too far, too fast, many brokers remain confident about prospects after the election. The strength of the economy is continuing to attract overseas money and



that should be good news for the stock market. Among the leaders, Grand Metropolitan, the Watney Mann and Truman brewers, shrugged off its recent dullness, advancing by 20p to 509p ahead of the interim figures later this week. Kleinwort Greaveson, the broker, was a big buyer of the shares and is expecting pretax profits remaining holding in the company in the autumn - if returned to power at the general election: a total of 12 million shares were bought and sold. But BP failed to hold its best levels as prices boiled over and closed unchanged at 346p. Shell breached the £13 level with a rise of 27p to £13.03 as 5 million shares were traded.

All eyes will be focused on interim figures from Saatchi & Saatchi when they are unveiled on Thursday. They are expected to show that pretax profits have almost doubled to £50 million, but there is concern about the DFS Dorland subsidiary. The word is that a merger has been proposed with part of Ted Bates and has run into internal opposition. There is now speculation about a Dorland management buy-out. Saatchi rose by 18p to 642p.

Others to go better included British Telecom, which has been under a cloud for much of the past year, owing to the threats of renationalization by the Labour Party, should it be swept to power next month, shrugged off its fears, racing up by 20p to a record of 320p at one stage. It eventually closed a net 13p up at 313p. The price has now risen by 26p in the past couple of weeks, helped by increasing

overseas support. The Japanese and Americans are said to be big fans of the shares. Analysts had warned that the threat of renationalization would continue to weigh heavily on BT. But, with the City now confident of a Conservative victory following its strong showing in the opinion polls, the shares' longer-term future is looking more assured. By the close, a total of 20 million shares had changed hands. Other privatization stocks were also in fine form. British Gas, dubbed the "People's Share" after last year's successful flotation, was also hitting new heights with a rise, in the partly-paid, of 4p to a peak of 114p. About 37 million shares were traded.

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British Airways' partly-paid was another strong market, climbing by 7p to 174p, on a turnover of 11 million shares. This compares with the issue price of 65p earlier this year. In the unofficial grey market, the shares of Rolls-Royce were going from strength to strength, ahead of official dealings next week. They closed 10p higher at 135p in their partly-paid form compared with the offer-for-sale price of 85p.

Dale Electric, currently fighting off a bid from rival Sunlight, jumped by 19p to a peak of 135p on talk that a white knight is about to emerge. The wings of Schroders, the merchant bank and Warburg Securities were both said to be big buyers. Last week, Mervin-Swain Group, the USM-quoted emergency lighting and fire alarm group, announced that it had bought a 1.4 per cent stake in Dale, increasing speculation that another bid was on the way. Sunlight finished the day 11p lower at 329p in ex-dividend form.

Leadbroke, the betting, property and leisure group, continued to rally after the spate of rumours which have hit the shares in recent weeks, climbing by 10p to 417p as more than 7 million shares changed hands.

TEMPUS

Wilting Lilley aims for revival

An investment in FJC Lilley is nothing less than an act of faith, and then it can only appeal to those with a true gambling instinct.

Because today's investor in Lilley has to believe that the troubles are definitely something of the past, and that the new management really is at grips with how to turn the group around.

That is asking a lot after annual results to end-January which reveal broken promises, huge losses and no dividend.

At the operating level there was a swing from a £11.37 million profit to a £7.38 million loss, while pretax profits, admittedly weighed down by huge exceptional debts, have turned from a £9.54 million profit into a £50.4 million loss. In addition, there are extraordinary debts of £3.86 million.

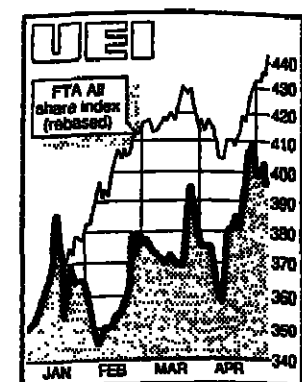
The balance sheet after such a year will look distinctly bruised. Shareholders' funds are down from £59.2 million to £18 million, which wipes out all the increases in funds seen over the past decade.

Wary shareholders hardly need reminding that it was North America, where operating losses reached £12 million, which was the number one problem area, followed by Algeria.

The good news is that at home the group still makes profits and that the 16 banks will continue to give their backing.

Disposals in North America could be the next plan of the new management team, though a more pressing problem is an overall capital restructuring. There will be an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders called to address this matter, and as soon as financial health permits, a rights issue cannot be ruled out.

If the dead wood has all been cleared from management and the books, then perhaps Lilley will move forward from here. In January it was awarded new contracts totalling £16 million, and by this time next year financial results can, by comparison, only look better. They can hardly look worse.



The shares were surprisingly steady at 50p yesterday on the grounds that the past was yesterday and tomorrow is another day. But until there is firm evidence of the profits upturn, the shares really are only for the brave.

Gas gamble

It is easier to buy at the bottom than to sell at the top, but buying at the bottom is a good start.

North American gas production could be that market, according to Viking Resources Trust, the energy investment specialist.

On a thermal equivalent basis, natural gas should be priced at roughly one-sixth of the oil price.

With gas at \$1.50 a thousand cubic feet (mcf) and oil at \$18 a barrel, gas is only half the price it should be.

The reason for the low price is the so-called "gas bubble." Much of this surplus gas cost \$6/mcf or even \$9/mcf to find and the producers must sell at almost any price or face ruin.

At \$1.50/mcf, very little natural gas is being drilled for and only 40 per cent of US consumption is being replaced. Exploration in the most prolific area, the Gulf of Mexico, is uneconomic at this price.

The "gas bubble" must therefore disappear in time. By that time, Viking will have half its assets in gas purchased at \$1.50/mcf.

The gas price is not expected to double overnight, but now that oil shares are discounting oil prices of above \$20 a barrel, it may be a worthwhile gamble for the longer term.

COMPANY NEWS

● **USHER-WALKER:** Total dividend for 1986 raised to 8.05p (7.3p). With figures in £000: Turnover 11,399 (10,994). Pretax profit 705 (845). Earnings per share 18.22p (20.68p).

● **HUNTINGDON INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS:** Six months to March 31. With figures in £000: Pretax income 3,587 (1,992). The board reports demand for biological safety testing services continues at record levels and its expectation of an excellent year in this division has strengthened since the last report.

More company news is on page 22

● **BRITISH INVESTMENT TRUST:** Year to March 31. Total dividend raised to 17p (15.2p). With figures in £000: Gross revenue 16,472 (14,972). Earnings per share 17.27p (15.27p).

● **GRA GROUP:** Dividend of 1p for the 14 months to December 31 compared with nil for the previous year. With figures in £000: Turnover 12,426 (9,504). Pretax profit 1,239 (643). Extraordinary credit 6,732 (390). Earnings per share, before extraordinary items, 2.01p (0.92p) and after, 17.65p (1.74p).

UEI's organic rise

Since UEI aborted its takeover bid for Oxford Instruments in January, the shares have been underperforming the FT All-Share index. This suggests that investors believe it is one more conglomerate run on the "Pac-Man" principle, which cannot go forward unless it is gobbling up other companies.

It is true that last year's figures to the end of January have the benefit of the results of its merger with Solid State Logic, but only to the extent of the forecast £1 million or so.

But it is still Quantel, the computerized graphics art division and one of its core businesses, which produces about half of UEI's profits.

The strategy of the group continues to be separate development of its technology-based subsidiaries, all reported to be enjoying buoyant order books.

With profits up 30 per cent

from £13 million to the expected £17 million from turnover up 20 per cent to £115 million, margins are not a problem.

The Cosworth motor car engine design group is now set to cement a long-term relationship with Ford for high-performance production saloon car engines which will provide it with a strong growth base for possibly years to come.

Finding suitable companies to add to its first-class stable is going to be harder than finding the funds to buy them. Gearing was halved to 28 per cent last year and is expected to be zero this year.

UEI is just the company for investors looking for state-of-the-art, technology-based stock.

Assuming profits of about £24 million this year, and a prospective p/e of around 17, the shares are not an expensive way to back Britain at 395p, unchanged yesterday.

With GKN's innovation and enterprise, no wonder British Telecom called on us.



British Telecom needed someone to build new style telephone boxes for the UK market, and GKN was happy to provide the solution.

It's just one of the many profitable projects we've undertaken since our restructuring. And our problem solving does not stop there. In our principal businesses of making automotive components and supplying industrial services, we provide answers to all our customers' needs.

With a strong management, a well-planned investment programme and the continuation of the programme to expand and extend our strategic businesses, everything indicates a brighter

future for GKN.

We are maintaining a high level of capital investment in Europe and North America to ensure our process technologies and production facilities are world competitive. And we've increased our investment in R&D to provide a range of new and improved products that will generate sales and profits throughout the next decade.

Of course none of this would be possible if we did not have a solid base to grow from. We do.

We have strengthened the business sectors which form the strategic profile of the Group. And, subject to short-term fluctuations in the marketplace, we are con-

fident that the direction we have selected will lead the Group on to further growth.

For full details of our performance to date, send in for our annual report by filling in the coupon.

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TT 123

Treasurers conflict with insurers on shareholder rights

By John Bell, City Editor

Britain's corporate treasurers, who control the finances of most large companies, have entered the widening dispute over company share issues. They have taken up a position in direct conflict with the leading insurance companies who wish to limit the freedom of company directors to issue shares for cash without offering them to existing shareholders first.

The dispute has been simmering away since the City's so-called Big Bang last October, when the Stock Exchange relaxed its own rules. But last week the exchange acted to defuse the dispute by calling for talks between those in favour of greater flexibility in company financing, and those who wish the traditional rights of shareholders — the so-called pre-emption rights — to be upheld.

Proponents of greater flexibility include many leading companies with overseas expansion aims and most City securities houses. These tend to see a great deal of potential new business in supplementing the traditional rights issue route for company funding with newer techniques such as bought deals and overseas placings. The corporate treasurers appear to be in favour of change.

A leading article published in the official journal of the Association of Corporate Treasurers questions the tougher line on pre-emption rights taken recently by insurance companies and says that there is a sound case for

relaxation. "The withdrawal last month because of institutional pressure of the international issue by Fisons aimed at European and Japanese investors and the reduction of the CH Bazaar proposal to issue American depositary receipts must be viewed with concern by industry, especially as the companies concerned had received favourable comment from institutions canvassed privately before hand," says the journal.

It goes on to criticise the Association of British Insurers, which recently said its members would allow blanket permissions for only 2½ per cent of a company's share capital to be issued without reference to existing shareholders. Previously it had accepted a 5 per cent ceiling. The journal says that this move probably bars all but the biggest companies from the successful Eurobond market that provided significant amounts of finance at competitive prices.

Making a case for the relaxation of pre-emption rights, the journal points out that the British equity market represents less than 10 per cent of total worldwide funds available for equity investment. "For British companies to ignore the long-term potential of this overseas pool of investment funds is shortsighted in the extreme."

It adds that a broad shareholder base is an invaluable asset and that the present willingness of British invest-

ors to support industry might well evaporate in the future. To have a presence in equity markets outside Britain increases name recognition and acceptance for the company's goods and services and lowers the cost of other funding operations such as commercial paper.

In the most hostile section of the leading article, the treasurers appear to suggest that some institutions are currently acting in their own self-interest. "There is a suspicion that the institutions fear that the ready availability of funds from outside these shores frequently provided by the new breed of post-Big Bang intermediaries will attack the cosy arrangement of discounted share issues coupled with a steady stream of underwriting fees on rights issues," it says.

The issue now appears deadlocked. The insurance companies are not easily likely to shift a position so recently taken up after considerable discussion. They agree that the principles of pre-emption laid down in the Companies Acts are an important protection for all shareholders and that for the fairest course for companies wishing to raise equity capital is to offer shares pro rata by way of rights to existing holders.

The National Association of Pension Funds is currently considering the pre-emption rights issue and is expected to take a position close to that of the ABI.



Peter Bowen: forging links between industry and education

WH Smith forges new training link

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

WH Smith & Son, the newsagent-DIY group, is linking with Oxford Polytechnic in a pioneering move to bridge the widening gap in Britain between in-company management training and academic qualifications.

Two thousand WH Smith managers a year will have the option, while undergoing management training, of also gaining qualifications up to Master of Business Administration (MBA) level from next month, the start of the company's training year.

The polytechnic will be validating the WH Smith management training as well as stipulating additional studies in the first industry-academic link of its kind, says Mr Peter Bowen, the manager of company training at WH Smith.

Mr Bowen, a member of the Confederation of British Industry education and training committee, said: "The educational world and the industrial training world are poles apart."

"This scheme could close the gap between education and in-company training, which has been a curse of the whole British system for so long. It is a model which I think other companies will follow."

Management training at WH Smith, which spends

about £1 million on this annually, is aimed primarily at younger managers typically heading a department within one of the high street stores.

Outdoor leadership training, with groups living under canvas and learning through dealing with practical problems, is a feature of the WH Smith courses at Milton Hill House, near Abingdon in Oxfordshire.

Training is also given to managers up to the highest executive level throughout an individual's career.

Managers will be able to volunteer to try for three levels of qualification, with self-study on a distance-learning basis playing a key part, particularly in the higher-level courses.

The lowest level will be a certificate in management studies, followed by a diploma and then an MBA.

The polytechnic at Oxford is putting together an MBA programme to be operational in about 18 months.

The initiative has come as calls have been increasing for changes in MBA education to steer courses towards a more practical company-oriented approach.

There are already an increasing number of company-dedicated courses for "fast-track" MBA candidates.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

The Bank of England takes a neutral stance

Margaret Thatcher is heading for a third term. The local election results said so. The opinion polls are saying so. And Norman Tebbit believes that the Conservatives will "walk it." So why, when the Prime Minister finally put an end to weeks of tedious speculation by naming June 11 as polling day, did the financial markets indulge in an ungallant, even cowardly, bout of profit-taking?

The equity market adopted a reasonably level-headed approach which implied confidence. There was selling shortly after the election date announcement from Downing Street, but prices were looking robust again by tea-time. Gifts, however, lost about three-quarters of a point, hit by an unusually soggy pound and signals from the Bank of England that it would prefer to have the market on hold during the campaign — with no further cuts in bank base rates until the electorate has made its choice of government.

Sterling's performance was unexpected. Having been bumping against the DM3 ceiling yesterday morning, when the Bank intervened to hold the rate in check, by two o'clock the pound was back into the more comfortable territory of DM2.98. It also lost well over a cent against a recovering dollar, to leave the sterling index down 0.3 at 73.3. This performance, apart from going against most predictions, also casts an interesting light on the likely performance of sterling during the 4½ week campaign when public opinion polls will flash like meteors in the City sky.

Two thoughts have a bearing. The first is that all the good news may already be reflected in the exchange rate, and any minor upsets on the hustings may make the pound wobble. On this view the election result, assuming a Conservative victory, would lead to post-election gains for the pound and, presumably, more interest rate cuts.

The second possibility is that markets have already started to look into the post-election haze and decided they can see entry into the European Monetary System at a somewhat lower sterling rate against the mark, say DM2.90, than we have at present. Thus, the upside for sterling against the mark is limited, and exchange rates may have already begun to adjust to this possibility.

The parties do not launch their campaigns proper until the end of the week, and it would be unwise to extrapolate one afternoon's events over several weeks. But the taster the Bank of England received yesterday is likely to underline its natural caution on base rates. Nine per cent base rates followed the reduction to 9.5 a little too quickly for official comfort.

The consumer credit figures for

March showed record advances of £3.2 billion — worrying in that the figures coincided with a significant slowdown in consumer spending. The Governor of the Bank of England's Mait lecture on Wednesday is likely to stress that there are still dangers of economic storms to follow the current calm.

The markets have been telling us that international assessments of the British economy have been transformed. Such views will be validated by the election result that most people now expect — and the country needs if it is finally to break free of the rusted irons of outmoded socialist dogma and stifling trade union rule. But in economics, as in politics, there is always the risk of over-confidence.

Lloyd's sigh of relief

The sighs of relief from Lloyd's and the life assurance companies were practically audible yesterday when the Prime Minister effectively rang down the curtain on this year's Finance Bill by calling the election everyone had been waiting for.

The insurance market and the life companies hope that the clauses affecting them will be lost in a necessarily-shortened bill. Their delight could be short-lived if Government and Opposition whips agree to take the relevant clauses on the floor of the Commons; but, whatever happens, a large part of the bill will have to be set aside to get the remainder to Third Reading before Parliament is dissolved on Monday.

Among the casualties are likely to be the 16 clauses setting up the tax regime for profit-related pay and the 39 dealing with the taxation of personal pensions. Personal pensions, which are due to be launched from next January, are a key element in the Government's plan to privatize an increasing proportion of pension provision. Without the tax framework, the provisions in the Social Security Act, setting up personal pensions, will be unworkable.

Most of the main Budget proposals are expected to go through. The income tax clauses are likely to be debated again today. Excise-duty changes, introducing the tax break in favour of unleaded petrol and abolishing the on-course betting duty will probably be carried without controversy.

As for the rest, all hangs upon the election. The Chancellor would be wise to enact all the remaining important clauses before he, or his successor, gets entangled with Budget, 1988. Not only will the Government lose a good deal of face by postponing personal pensions and PRP for a whole year, but also the first Budget of any Parliament is the occasion for radical change.

Braithwaite shares frozen after expansion is unveiled

By Michael Tate

Share dealings in the loss-making Braithwaite Group, where Mr Andrew Fitton took control earlier this year, were frozen yesterday after plans for an important diversification into the heating, air-conditioning and cleaning equipment businesses were unveiled.

Braithwaite has agreed to buy Andrews Group from Stone International, in a move that will more than double the size of the company. Stone, which owns 75 per cent of Andrews — the balance is held by the board — needs to reduce borrowings that have risen to £29.9 million.

Stone's share of the pro-

ceeds will be £17.3 million. It will initially receive a mixture of ordinary and convertible preference shares, which will be acquired by Samuel Montagu, and parcelled up for sale, with the bulk of the Andrews board's entitlement, to Braithwaite holders.

Every seven new ordinary shares and 13 preference will be sold as units at £36.80, with every four existing shares qualifying for one unit. The ordinary shares have been valued at 340p.

Andrews hires and sells heating, drying, air-conditioning and cleaning equipment to corporate customers, and pioneered the "heat for hire"

concept in Britain. It manufactures portable air heaters at Wolverhampton and owns 19 depots in Britain and one in Holland.

The deal will revive Stone, but it will transform Braithwaite, which yesterday unveiled a further loss for the year ended March 31, reduced from £1.02 million to £248,000. It achieved a turnover of £9.97 million.

The directors of Andrews, which made profits of £2.43 million on turnover of £21.4 million in the 13 months ended May 31 last year, have warranted profits of not less than £3 million for the current year.

US calls for speedier build-up of oil stocks

Paris (AP-Dow Jones) — Mr John Herrington, the US Energy Secretary, yesterday urged Western countries to act faster on building emergency stockpiles of oil.

Speaking at the annual ministerial meeting of the 21-member International Energy Agency, he said that the risk of a future oil supply crisis has firmed the US commitment to a quicker build-up of its emergency stocks.

Mr Herrington said that while the IEA member coun-

tries as a group were meeting the agency's goal of holding oil stocks equal to at least 90 days of domestic consumption, some individual nations were falling short. He did not single out any country by name, but Britain and France are believed to be among IEA members that fall well below the 90-day figure.

"A credible strategic oil stockpile serves as a deterrent to those who might be tempted to use oil as a political weapon," he said.

Japanese concessions 'will not aid US trade'

Tokyo (Reuters) — Japanese concessions in individual trade disputes with the United States will do little to reduce the huge trade imbalance between the two countries, a senior official of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said yesterday.

"I don't think item by item concessions... (will have) much more effect rectifying the imbalance," Mr Koichi Kato, acting chairman of the LDP's Policy Research Council, said.

"Although we might eliminate all barriers, I don't think the trade imbalance will improve substantially," the former Defence Minister said. Such questions as the competitiveness of US products and whether the two countries can co-ordinate overall economic policies will be more important in deciding the future shape of the bilateral imbalance.

US figures show about one-third of its \$170 billion (£100 billion) trade deficit last year was with Japan.

Big Bang? Small pop for Porsche

Despite all those exaggerated stories peddled around by people outside the Square Mile about everyone within it earning upwards of £100,000 a year and driving a flashy Porsche sports car, the number of Porsche cars sold in Britain since Big Bang last October has actually dropped. With prices fuelled by the strength of the German mark, a top-of-the-range model will now set you back by as much as £90,000 — and that figure is set to rise even further next Saturday when the manufacturers latest increase of 2.8 per cent comes into effect. According to Porsche Cars Great Britain, which has just been taken over by the manufacturers, Porsche AG of Stuttgart, the total number of Porsche cars sold fell by 33 per cent during the first three months of this year. Between January and March 1987 they sold 907 cars — compared with 1322 during the same period the previous year.

● If you notice something strange peeping out from under the Pope's robes when he makes his annual Christmas speech you will be forgiven for imagining that he is wearing a pair of cowboy boots. For that is exactly what they might be. A Texan company is planning to present him with a pair of custom-made boots, complete with embossed Papal seal, when he visits San Antonio in September.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

A floppy at the polls

Clients of Goldman Sachs, the US investment house, should be among the first to know the outcome of the general election — thanks to a floppy disk being mailed to them by the bank's chief UK economist Garry Davies. Believed to be the first floppy disk ever sent out by a financial institution to its clients, recipients with IBM-PC or compatible computers will be able to feed in opinion poll results or the actual constituency results — as and when they start coming in on June 11 — and get some

idea of the eventual result. "The programme contains the results for every constituency in the 1983 election," explains Goldman, "and it can be adjusted to allow for regional swings and tactical voting." Feeding in the results of the last four opinion polls, Goldman say their model shows the Conservatives with 41.5 per cent of the vote, against Labour's 32 per cent and 24.1 per cent for the Alliance, giving the Tories 366 seats — an overall majority of 82.

Get well soon

Numerous heart-felt good wishes — in thought as well as written words — are winging their way from the Square Mile to May Day Hospital in Croydon, where Ivan "Joe" Perry, a popular dealer on Smith New Court's miscellaneous pitch, is recovering from a leg amputation. Joe, in his mid-50s, underwent the operation last Thursday after falling down the side of a moving train on East Croydon station. Details of the accident, which happened as he was making his way to his West Sussex home, are still hazy but it is believed that he tried to jump aboard just as the train started to pull out.

We, and all his many friends and colleagues, wish him well.



"I always fancied a Rolls"

Mr Dale's diary

When Ian Dale, of Dale Electronics, speaks at the CBI conference about how to sell to the Japanese, the audience might see fit to ask him a few searching questions about the art of takeover bids. His company's £17 million quest for loss-making Sunleigh is turning into a catalogue of disasters. Its original offer document was leaked to the press four days before its advisers and shareholders received a copy, prompting a rap on the knuckles by the Stock Exchange; it has had to apologise to the Takeover Panel over its calculations of Dale's profit and turnover figures; and now it has been revealed that on Friday its merchant bank Singer & Friedlander sent a fax to defending bank County Natwest erroneously claiming acceptances of 7 per cent. Today it was forced — somewhat embarrassingly — to admit acceptances of just 0.31 per cent. Perhaps Dale should begin by finding himself a better set of advisers.

● Some fiction writers do manage to get their facts right — or almost. In his best-selling novel *The Fourth Protocol*, author Frederick Forsyth predicts that Margaret Thatcher will hold her third general election on June 18, 1987. Pretty good going, given that the book was published as long ago as 1984.

Carol Leonard

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ANOTHER GOOD YEAR FOR AMEV

Net profit for the year ended 31 December 1986 amounted to Dfl 322.5m, an increase of nearly 5% over 1985. Adjusted for foreign exchange fluctuations the increase was 20.4%.

Total income was 7.5% higher at Dfl 8,073m. Adjusted for foreign exchange fluctuations total consolidated operating income for both years increased by 15.8%.

The USA contributed 42% of total income, the Netherlands 36%, other European countries 17% and Australasia 5%.

Shareholders receive a final dividend of Dfl 1.80 per share making an unchanged total for the year of Dfl 2.55.

The figures for the first quarter of 1987 will be released on 21 May 1987.

Copies of the 1986 Annual Report can be obtained from: AMEV (UK) Limited, 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth BH4 9HD. Telephone: 0202 760297

Profit & Loss Account		1986	1985
Life Insurance		271.2	256.6
Non-Life Insurance		115.1	108.8
Other Income		46.8	30.0
Total Income		433.1	395.4
Operating Expenses		110.9	100.0
Operating Profit		322.2	295.4
Financial Expenses		-0.3	-0.3
Net Profit		322.5	295.1

AMEV Worldwide

AMEV is an international insurance and financial services group based in the Netherlands. Its shares are quoted on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange and options on AMEV bearer certificates are traded on the European Options Exchange. Total assets are now Dfl 25.5bn.

AMEV operates in 13 countries: Belgium, Denmark, Eire, France, the Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA.

AMEV in the UK

AMEV (UK) offers a comprehensive range of financial services through its operating companies, Gresham Assurance Group and Bishopsgate Insurance.

Gresham is engaged in all aspects of life assurance, pensions, mortgages and unit trusts. Bishopsgate, together with its subsidiary Leadenhall Insurance, is a general insurance company operating in marine and non-marine business through the London market as well as in travel, motor and other personal insurances.

N.V. AMEV, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Pineapple buys leather group

COMPANY NEWS

The London-based Pineapple Group, which runs dance centres, has acquired the assets and trade of Regent Leather Goods for an initial £500,000 cash. The business, based in Walsall, West Midlands, has been purchased from Mr RH Reader, who will remain as the managing director.

Its pretax profits in the year to October 31 were about £186,000. A further consideration depends on profits in the 27 months to July 31, 1989. Should Regent achieve its pretax profit target of £336,000, an additional £1.53 million is payable. Further considerations may be paid on pretax profits, up to a maximum of £1.23 million.

In brief

● **TNT LTD:** The company is reporting for the third quarter to March 31. Net profit was \$98.56 million (£41.96 million), against \$98.24 million. Revenue was \$2.30 billion (A\$2.07 billion). Earnings per share 29.9 cents (23 cents). Third-quarter dividend of 4 cents (3.5 cents), making 12 cents (10.5 cents) for the first nine months.

● **CIRCAPRINT HOLDINGS:** Six months to February 28. No dividend. With figures in £000: Turnover 5,332 (3,947). Pretax profit 632 (367). Earnings per share 7.89 (4.38). Order intake is in line with targets and the second-half results should be comparable with the first, the board reports.

● **WATSHAM'S:** The company has acquired Dracard, a maker and distributor of electro-sensitive and thermal charts for medical and other uses. The initial consideration of £1.05 million has been satisfied by the issue of 512,195 ordinary shares. A further cash price, up to a maximum of £250,000, is payable, depending on profits.

● **TMD ADVERTISING:** Six months to February 28. With figures in £000: Turnover 28,589 (25,008). Pretax profit 504 (417). Earnings per share 5.7p (4.8p).

● **QUARTO GROUP INC:** Conditional agreement has been reached for the purchase of Western Signcraft, a still-screen printing and sign-writing company. The initial price of \$450,000 will be satisfied by 281,250 new shares of common stock at 160p a share. Quarto has agreed to pay a further sum, based on profits, subject to a maximum of £75,000.

ALPHA STOCKS

Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000	Company	Volume '000
Allied-Lyons	2,900	English China	1,100	Rank Org	1,000
Amstrad	3,900	Fisons	1,900	Rank Hovis	1,800
Argyll	2,200	Gen Accident	377	Redland	2,300
ASDA-MFI	15,000	GEO	28,000	Reckitt Colman	282
Ass Br Foods	2,800	Globe IT	583	Reed Int	881
BET	2,000	Graham	2,400	Reuners	685
BTH	4,400	Grand Met	8,400	RTZ Group	719
BAT	5,100	GUS 'A'	373	RTZ	684
Berleys	2,600	GRE	260	Rowntree	1,700
Bass	1,200	GRO	2,900	Royal B of Scot	989
Beecham	3,000	Guinness	4,200	Royal Int	902
Blue Circle	2,300	Hanson	13,000	Sainsbury (A)	1,800
BOC	2,300	Hawker Siddeley	691	Sainsbury (N)	3,300
Bouss	5,000	Hilldown	2,100	Sarsa	21,000
BPG Ind	3,700	Imp Chem Ind	2,500	Satwick Gp	877
Br Aerospace	5,400	Jaguar	1,300	Shelf	5,000
Br Airways	11,000	Ladbroke	7,300	Smith & Nephew	6,100
Br Comm	2,800	Land Securities	3,100	STC	5,800
Br Gas	40,000	Legal & Gen	1,600	Stan Chart	672
Br Petroleum	12,000	Lloyds	1,500	Sharehouse	2,100
Br Telecom	21,000	Lovro	686	Sun Alliance	980
Britoil	7,700	Martins & Spencer	10,000	Tarmac	1,700
Bund	1,800	M&P	685	Tesco	21,000
Burton	5,200	Midland	804	Thom Emi	2,200
Cable & Wireless	11,000	Nat West	3,600	Trasfalg House	4,400
Cadbury Schwepp	3,800	West	2,500	Unilever	3,100
Costa Viole	612	W & O Dird	1,900	Unitec	1,100
Com Union	4,400	Pearson	1,000	Unilever	680
Corn Goldfields	851	Pittungton Bros	1,000	Unit Blacolls	3,000
Cookson Gp	750	Plessey	12,000	Wellcome	940
Courtside	1,200	Prudential	741	Whitbread 'A'	4,400
Dee Corp	5,000	Racal Elect	4,000	Woolworth	1,700
Oxoens Gp	5,900				

Stock prices on page 25

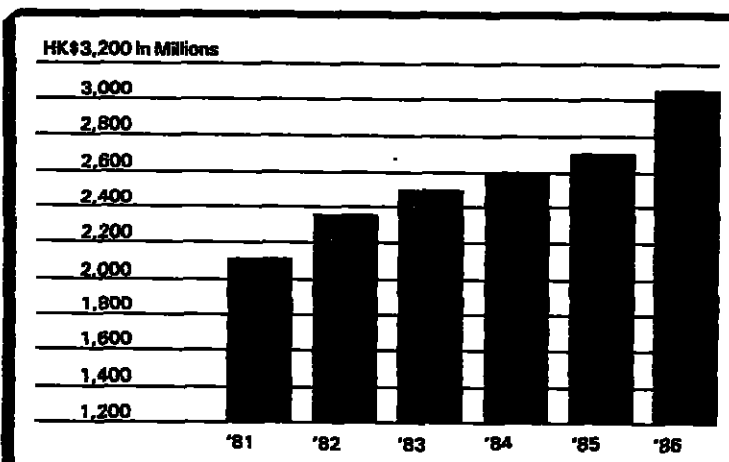
LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Three Month Sterling	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	91.45	91.52	91.38	91.38	4764
Sep 87	91.77	91.85	91.68	91.68	1652
Dec 87	91.84	91.84	91.50	91.50	164
Mar 88	91.42	91.42	91.30	91.30	164
Jun 88	91.28	91.28	91.17	91.17	20
Sep 88	91.15	91.15	91.04	91.04	55
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 89	90.82	90.82	90.82	90.82	0
Previous day's total open interest 26753					
Three Month Eurodollar	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	92.88	92.71	92.68	92.68	2133
Sep 87	92.27	92.31	92.25	92.27	1888
Dec 87	92.05	92.07	92.05	92.05	330
Mar 88	91.88	91.90	91.88	91.79	79
Jun 88	91.72	91.72	91.72	91.73	10
Sep 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Dec 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 89	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Previous day's total open interest 29800					
US Treasury Bond	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	92.15	92.23	92.07	92.12	8058
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Previous day's total open interest 4888					
Short Gilt	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Sep 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Mar 88	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Previous day's total open interest 0					
Long Gilt	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	127.28	128.01	127.00	127.03	29070
Sep 87	127.28	127.28	127.00	126.31	68
Dec 87	NT	NT	NT	NT	0
Previous day's total open interest 28112					
FT-SE 100	Open	High	Low	Close	Est Vol
Jun 87	215.00	220.20	215.00	218.50	1836
Sep 87	218.00	222.00	218.00	222.50	67
Previous day's total open interest 4515					

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

1986 Results

- Group profits increased by 12.4 per cent from HK\$2,719 million to HK\$3,056 million (us\$348 million to us\$392 million).
- The trend of group profits for 1987 is encouraging and the Board expects to be able to declare an interim dividend of HK\$0.12 and to recommend a final dividend of at least HK\$0.25 on the increased capital.
- One-for-eight capitalisation issue.
- One-for-eight rights issue to raise HK\$3,303 million and further strengthen the capital base.



Published group profit

Financial Highlights

1985	1986	1986
HK\$ in Millions	HK\$	US\$
3,627	Total group profit	4,075
2,719	Attributable group profit	3,056
21,882	Shareholders' funds	26,511
545,610	Total assets	715,284
HK\$0.72	Earnings per share	HK\$0.81
HK\$0.38	Dividends per share	HK\$0.41

Commercial banking

Profits of Hang Seng Bank rose 12.8 per cent to HK\$1,051 millions.

Copies of the 1986 Annual Report and Accounts are available from Department UK3, P.O. Box 199, 99 Bishopsgate, London EC2P 2LA. Offices in Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester

Profits of Marine Midland Bank rose 15.8 per cent to us\$145 million. Marine Midland has acquired Westchester Financial Services Corporation and has entered into an agreement to acquire First Pennsylvania Corporation.

In November Hongkong Bank of Canada took over most of the assets and liabilities of the Bank of British Columbia.

Hongkong Bank of Australia opened in February 1986 and now has eight branches.

Merchant banking & capital markets

Profits of the Wardley Group rose 95 per cent to HK\$177 million.

James Capel & Co, the London-based stockbroking company which became a wholly-owned subsidiary in 1986, doubled its profits. James Capel has been awarded a branch licence in Tokyo.

During 1986 the parent Bank acquired from Marine Midland 51 per cent of the CM&M Group whose principal subsidiary, Carroll McEntee & McGinley, is a leading primary dealer in US government securities.



Hongkong Bank

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

Marine Midland Bank • Hang Seng Bank
The British Bank of the Middle East • Hongkong Bank of Australia • Hongkong Bank of Canada

Wardley • James Capel • CM & M
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Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the Society's rules, that as from the 11th May, 1987 the following rates of interest per annum apply to the various types of investment accounts.

	Net	Gross
White Horse Account	8.40%	11.51%
Two Months' Notice Shares		
£800-£24,999	7.75%	10.82%
£25,000 plus	8.00%	10.96%
Thoroughbred Account		
£3,000-£5,999	7.25%	9.93%
£6,000-£9,999	7.50%	10.41%
£10,000 plus	7.90%	10.82%
Regular Savings	7.50%	10.27%
Junior Account	6.00%	8.22%
Paid-Up Share	5.00%	6.85%
Deposits (Personal)	4.75%	6.51%

Gross equivalent rates apply to basic rate tax payers. Interest rates are subject to variation. Rates of interest on all discontinued or closed issues of notice or term shares not indicated above will be reduced by 1.00% per annum.

The rate of interest on all existing mortgages will be reduced by 1.00% with effect from 1st June, 1987. The rates applicable for both existing and new borrowers, who are owner-occupiers, will be 11.50%.

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NEED A QUICK ANSWER
Vic Hallam

RACING: CUMANI AND COCHRANE LINE UP WINNERS AT TWO MEETINGS

Indian Skimmer set to complete treble

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

The Tattersalls Musidora Stakes at York today promises to be a fascinating contest even though there are only three runners.

Barry Hills, who won the race a year ago with Rejuvenate, has long been adamant that his hopes of winning this year's Oaks rest largely with Bourbon Girl, who, considering she is a full-sister to the stayer, Shipbourne, showed encouraging speed to win her only race to date over seven furlongs at Ascot last autumn.

With Manton now firmly

back on the training map again his judgement is to be greatly respected, especially as last Wednesday he captured the Cheshire Oaks with an inferior stable companion. Yet despite that it goes against the grain to oppose INDIAN SKIMMER, who has been highly impressive when winning both her races this spring.

While the first was only a maiden at Wolverhampton, the second was the important Pretty Polly Stakes at Newmarket, where she left the current Oaks favourite, Percy's Lass, as if she was standing still in the last quarter of a mile.

Indian Skimmer is not being aimed at the Oaks because her trainer, Henry Cecil, feels that she would be totally unsuited by Epsom but her long, raking stride and relentless gallop look tailor-made for York.

The outsider of the party, Mountain Memory, is no former hope, especially if she runs as well as she did in the Hoover Fillies' Mile at Ascot last September, but all the current evidence points to Indian Skimmer.

OVERDRIVE should initiate a double for Cecil by winning the Lambton Chemical Stakes. Being a half-sister to the 1974 Park Hill Stakes winner, Mill's Bomb, by Shir-

ley Heights, she should relish today's 1 1/4-mile trip and go one better than her second to Kaytighy at Sandown.

Phillip will attempt to win the Lord Anthony Sprint Trophy for a second successive year, but following that sound run behind Haggate in the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket, I prefer CLANTIME. The form of conditions races can sometimes be misleading in handicaps but the fact remains that Clantime had both Manton Dan and Rotherfield Greys behind at Newmarket. He will be meeting them on better terms this afternoon.

After attempting to win the

Siedmere Handicap with ANUBI, Luca Cumani and his stable jockey, Ray Cochrane, turn their attentions to Nottingham, where they look poised to complete a double with FIRST OF ALL (7.45) and KNOCKANDO (8.15).

An easy winner of his last race at Carlisle, First Of All is preferred to the Pontefract winner, Farfur, for the Seainton Stakes, especially in receipt of 7lb, while Knockando, the impressive winner of a maiden at Redcar a week ago, is napped to confirm that promising impression by giving weight and a beating to mediocre rivals in the Plumb Center Grundfos Handicap.

Eliogarty to deny Barstick

By Brian Beel

There are five hunter chases at Folkestone today and in the principal event, the Shepherd Neame United Hunts Open Champion Hunter Chase, Eliogarty should have the edge over last year's winner, Barstick (Brian Beel writes).

Philip Scoullier looks to hold a sound chance of these events with Florentyna Bay looking the pick of them in the Guy Peate Memorial Novice Hunter Chase. However, Pay Related could come out best against Just A Ghost in the Royal Judgement Open Hunters Chase and Pride Of Down may be top stayer in the Cuckoo Maiden Hunters Challenge Cup Chase.

But Bennett failed to draw the

Comedy of errors has unhappy conclusion

correct weight and was disqualified, leaving Richard Armitage on Tenby's Treasure the only finisher. Arthur broke his pelvis in the fall and furthermore Mrs Armitage was the owner of the Jockey Club as the stables were later found to be at fault.

At the Mincehead and W Somerset two riders tasted their first success. Helen Pavey won the Ladies' Open on Flying Dreamer while James Scott beat his only rival in the Members'.

In the Hunt race at the Varsity the 33-1 outsider of three, Amsam and in the Ladies' race at the West Norfolk Poyntz Pass gave Amanda Harwood a winning ride.

But Bennett failed to draw the

YORK

Selections

By Mandarin

2.00 Marentia.

2.35 Overdrive.

3.05 Clantime.

3.40 Indian Skimmer.

4.10 Jurisprudence.

4.40 Anubi.

By Michael Seely

3.05 Clantime. 3.40 INDIAN SKIMMER (nap). 4.10 Island Set.

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

2.00 NARVIS.

2.35 OVERDRIVE (nap).

3.05 SILENT MAJORITY.

3.40 INDIAN SKIMMER.

4.10 Island Set.

4.40 Anubi.

Guide to our line racecard

102 (12) 0-0422 TIMESFORM 74 (2) (J.F.F.A.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) 8 Hls 9-10-0 West (4) 88

Racecard number, Draw in brackets, Sign-figure from 1-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-16, 17-18, 19-20, 21-22, 23-24, 25-26, 27-28, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34, 35-36, 37-38, 39-40, 41-42, 43-44, 45-46, 47-48, 49-50, 51-52, 53-54, 55-56, 57-58, 59-60, 61-62, 63-64, 65-66, 67-68, 69-70, 71-72, 73-74, 75-76, 77-78, 79-80, 81-82, 83-84, 85-86, 87-88, 89-90, 91-92, 93-94, 95-96, 97-98, 99-100, 101-102, 103-104, 105-106, 107-108, 109-110, 111-112, 113-114, 115-116, 117-118, 119-120, 121-122, 123-124, 125-126, 127-128, 129-130, 131-132, 133-134, 135-136, 137-138, 139-140, 141-142, 143-144, 145-146, 147-148, 149-150, 151-152, 153-154, 155-156, 157-158, 159-160, 161-162, 163-164, 165-166, 167-168, 169-170, 171-172, 173-174, 175-176, 177-178, 179-180, 181-182, 183-184, 185-186, 187-188, 189-190, 191-192, 193-194, 195-196, 197-198, 199-200, 201-202, 203-204, 205-206, 207-208, 209-210, 211-212, 213-214, 215-216, 217-218, 219-220, 221-222, 223-224, 225-226, 227-228, 229-230, 231-232, 233-234, 235-236, 237-238, 239-240, 241-242, 243-244, 245-246, 247-248, 249-250, 251-252, 253-254, 255-256, 257-258, 259-260, 261-262, 263-264, 265-266, 267-268, 269-270, 271-272, 273-274, 275-276, 277-278, 279-280, 281-282, 283-284, 285-286, 287-288, 289-290, 291-292, 293-294, 295-296, 297-298, 299-300, 301-302, 303-304, 305-306, 307-308, 309-310, 311-312, 313-314, 315-316, 317-318, 319-320, 321-322, 323-324, 325-326, 327-328, 329-330, 331-332, 333-334, 335-336, 337-338, 339-340, 341-342, 343-344, 345-346, 347-348, 349-350, 351-352, 353-354, 355-356, 357-358, 359-360, 361-362, 363-364, 365-366, 367-368, 369-370, 371-372, 373-374, 375-376, 377-378, 379-380, 381-382, 383-384, 385-386, 387-388, 389-390, 391-392, 393-394, 395-396, 397-398, 399-400, 401-402, 403-404, 405-406, 407-408, 409-410, 411-412, 413-414, 415-416, 417-418, 419-420, 421-422, 423-424, 425-426, 427-428, 429-430, 431-432, 433-434, 435-436, 437-438, 439-440, 441-442, 443-444, 445-446, 447-448, 449-450, 451-452, 453-454, 455-456, 457-458, 459-460, 461-462, 463-464, 465-466, 467-468, 469-470, 471-472, 473-474, 475-476, 477-478, 479-480, 481-482, 483-484, 485-486, 487-488, 489-490, 491-492, 493-494, 495-496, 497-498, 499-500, 501-502, 503-504, 505-506, 507-508, 509-510, 511-512, 513-514, 515-516, 517-518, 519-520, 521-522, 523-524, 525-526, 527-528, 529-530, 531-532, 533-534, 535-536, 537-538, 539-540, 541-542, 543-544, 545-546, 547-548, 549-550, 551-552, 553-554, 555-556, 557-558, 559-560, 561-562, 563-564, 565-566, 567-568, 569-570, 571-572, 573-574, 575-576, 577-578, 579-580, 581-582, 583-584, 585-586, 587-588, 589-590, 591-592, 593-594, 595-596, 597-598, 599-600, 601-602, 603-604, 605-606, 607-608, 609-610, 611-612, 613-614, 615-616, 617-618, 619-620, 621-622, 623-624, 625-626, 627-628, 629-630, 631-632, 633-634, 635-636, 637-638, 639-640, 641-642, 643-644, 645-646, 647-648, 649-650, 651-652, 653-654, 655-656, 657-658, 659-660, 661-662, 663-664, 665-666, 667-668, 669-670, 671-672, 673-674, 675-676, 677-678, 679-680, 681-682, 683-684, 685-686, 687-688, 689-690, 691-692, 693-694, 695-696, 697-698, 699-700, 701-702, 703-704, 705-706, 707-708, 709-710, 711-712, 713-714, 715-716, 717-718, 719-720, 721-722, 723-724, 725-726, 727-728, 729-730, 731-732, 733-734, 735-736, 737-738, 739-740, 741-742, 743-744, 745-746, 747-748, 749-750, 751-752, 753-754, 755-756, 757-758, 759-760, 761-762, 763-764, 765-766, 767-768, 769-770, 771-772, 773-774, 775-776, 777-778, 779-780, 781-782, 783-784, 785-786, 787-788, 789-790, 791-792, 793-794, 795-796, 797-798, 799-800, 801-802, 803-804, 805-806, 807-808, 809-810, 811-812, 813-814, 815-816, 817-818, 819-820, 821-822, 823-824, 825-826, 827-828, 829-830, 831-832, 833-834, 835-836, 837-838, 839-840, 841-842, 843-844, 845-846, 847-848, 849-850, 851-852, 853-854, 855-856, 857-858, 859-860, 861-862, 863-864, 865-866, 867-868, 869-870, 871-872, 873-874, 875-876, 877-878, 879-880, 881-882, 883-884, 885-886, 887-888, 889-890, 891-892, 893-894, 895-896, 897-898, 899-900, 901-902, 903-904, 905-906, 907-908, 909-910, 911-912, 913-914, 915-916, 917-918, 919-920, 921-922, 923-924, 925-926, 927-928, 929-930, 931-932, 933-934, 935-936, 937-938, 939-940, 941-942, 943-944, 945-946, 947-948, 949-950, 951-952, 953-954, 955-956, 957-958, 959-960, 961-962, 963-964, 965-966, 967-968, 969-970, 971-972, 973-974, 975-976, 977-978, 979-980, 981-982, 983-984, 985-986, 987-988, 989-990, 991-992, 993-994, 995-996, 997-998, 999-1000, 1001-1002, 1003-1004, 1005-1006, 1007-1008, 1009-1010, 1011-1012, 1013-1014, 1015-1016, 1017-1018, 1019-1020, 1021-1022, 1023-1024, 1025-1026, 1027-1028, 1029-1030, 1031-1032, 1033-1034, 1035-1036, 1037-1038, 1039-1040, 1041-1042, 1043-1044, 1045-1046, 1047-1048, 1049-1050, 1051-1052, 1053-1054, 1055-1056, 1057-1058, 1059-1060, 1061-1062, 1063-1064, 1065-1066, 1067-1068, 1069-1070, 1071-1072, 1073-1074, 1075-1076, 1077-1078, 1079-1080, 1081-1082, 1083-1084, 1085-1086, 1087-1088, 1089-1090, 1091-1092, 1093-1094, 1095-1096, 1097-1098, 1099-1100, 1101-1102, 1103-1104, 1105-1106, 1107-1108, 1109-1110, 1111-1112, 1113-1114, 1115-1116, 1117-1118, 1119-1120, 1121-1122, 1123-1124, 1125-1126, 1127-1128, 1129-1130, 1131-1132, 1133-1134, 1135-1136, 1137-1138, 1139-1140, 1141-1142, 1143-1144, 1145-1146, 1147-1148, 1149-1150, 1151-1152, 1153-1154, 1155-1156, 1157-1158, 1159-1160, 1161-1162, 1163-1164, 1165-1166, 1167-1168, 1169-1170, 1171-1172, 1173-1174, 1175-1176, 1177-1178, 1179-1180, 1181-1182, 1183-1184, 1185-1186, 1187-1188, 1189-1190, 1191-1192, 1193-1194, 1195-1196, 1197-1198, 1199-1200, 1201-1202, 1203-1204, 1205-1206, 1207-1208, 1209-1210, 1211-1212, 1213-1214, 1215-1216, 1217-1218, 1219-1220, 1221-1222, 1223-1224, 1225-1226, 1227-1228, 1229-1230, 1231-1232, 1233-1234, 1235-1236, 1237-1238, 1239-1240, 1241-1242, 1243-1244, 1245-1246, 1247-1248, 1249-1250, 1251-1252, 1253-1254, 1255-1256, 1257-1258, 1259-1260, 1261-1262, 1263-1264, 1265-1266, 1267-1268, 1269-1270, 1271-1272, 1273-1274, 1275-1276, 1277-1278, 1279-1280, 1281-1282, 1283-1284, 1285-1286, 1287-1288, 1289-1290, 1291-1292, 1293-1294, 1295-1296, 1297-1298, 1299-1300, 1301-1302, 1303-1304, 1305-1306, 1307-1308, 1309-1310, 1311-1312, 1313-1314, 1315-1316, 1317-1318, 1319-1320, 1321-1322, 1323-1324, 1325-1326, 1327-1328, 1329-1330, 1331-1332, 1333-1334, 1335-1336, 1337-1338, 1339-1340, 1341-1342, 1343-1344, 1345-1346, 1347-1348, 1349-1350, 1351-1352, 1353-1354, 1355-1356, 1357-1358, 1359-1360, 1361-1362, 1363-1364, 1365-1366, 1367-1368, 1369-1370, 1371-1372, 1373-1374, 1375-1376, 1377-1378, 1379-1380, 1381-1382, 1383-1384, 1385-1386, 1387-1388, 1389-1390, 1391-1392, 1393-1394, 1395-1396, 1397-1398, 1399-1400, 1401-1402, 1403-1404, 1405-1406, 1407-1408, 1409-1410, 1411-1412, 1413-1414, 1415-1416, 1417-1418, 1419-1420, 1421-1422, 1423-1424, 1425-1426, 1427-1428, 1429-1430, 1431-1432, 1433-1434, 1435-1436, 1437-1438, 1439-1440, 1441-1442, 1443-1444, 1445-1446, 1447-1448, 1449-1450, 1451-1452, 1453-1454, 1455-1456, 1457-1458, 1459-1460, 1461-1462, 1463-1464, 1465-1466, 1467-1468, 1469-1470, 1471-1472, 1473-1474, 1475-1476, 1477-1478, 1479-1480, 1481-1482, 1483-1484, 1485-1486, 1487-1488, 1489-1490, 1491-1492, 1493-1494, 1495-1496, 1497-1498, 1499-1500, 1501-1502, 1503-1504, 1505-1506, 1507-1508, 1509-1510, 1511-1512, 1513-1514, 1515-1516, 1517-1518, 1519-1520, 1521-1522, 1523-1524, 1525-1526, 1527-1528, 1529-1530, 1531-1532, 1533-1534, 1535-1536, 1537-1538, 1539-1540, 1541-1542, 1543-1544, 1545-1546, 1547-1548, 1549-1550, 1551-1552, 1553-1554, 1555-1556, 1557-1558, 1559-1560, 1561-1562, 1563-1564, 1565-1566, 1567-1568, 1569-1570, 1571-1572, 1573-1574, 1575-1576, 1577-1578, 1579-1580, 1581-1582, 1583-1584, 1585-1586, 1587-1588, 1589-1590, 1591-1592, 1593-1594, 1595-1596, 1597-1598, 1599-1600, 1601-1602, 1603-1604, 1605-1606, 1607-1608, 1609-1610, 1611-1612, 1613-1614, 1615-1616, 1617-1618, 1619-1620, 1621-1622, 1623-1624, 1625-1626, 1627-1628, 1629-1630, 1631-1632, 1633-1634, 1635-1636, 1637-1638, 1639-1640, 1641-1642, 1643-1644, 1645-1646, 1647-1648, 1649-1650, 1651-1652, 1653-1654, 1655-1656, 1657-1658, 1659-1660, 1661-1662, 1663-1664, 1665-1666, 1667-1668, 1669-1670, 1671-1672, 1673-1674, 1675-1676, 1677-1678, 1679-1680, 1681-1682, 1683-1684, 1685-1686, 1687-1688, 1689-1690, 1691-1692, 1693-1694, 1695-1696, 1697-1698, 1699-1700, 1701-1702, 1703-1704, 1705-1706, 1707-1708, 1709-1710, 1711-1712, 1713-1714, 1715-1716, 1717-1718, 1719-1720, 1721-1722, 1723-1724, 1725-1726, 1727-1728, 1729-1730, 1731-1732, 1733-1734, 1735-1736, 1737-1738, 1739-1740, 1741-1742, 1743-1744, 1745-1746, 1747-1748, 1749-1750, 1751-1752, 1753-1754, 1755-1756, 1757-1758, 1759-1760, 1761-1762, 1763-1764, 1765-1766, 1767-1768, 1769-1770, 1771-1772, 1773-1774, 1775-1776, 1777-1778, 1779-1780, 1781-1782, 1783-1784, 1785-1786, 1787-1788, 1789-1790, 1791-1792, 1793-1794, 1795-1796, 1797-1798, 1799-1800, 1801-1802, 1803-1804, 1805-1806, 1807-1808, 1809-1810, 1811-1812, 1813-1814, 1815-1816, 1817-1818, 1819-1820, 1821-1822, 1823-1824, 1825-1826, 1827-1828, 1829-1830, 1831-1832, 1833-1834, 1835-1836, 1837-1838, 1839-1840, 1841-1842, 1843-1844, 1845-1846, 1847-1848, 1849-1850, 1851-1852, 1853-1854, 1855-1856, 1857-1858, 1859-1860, 1861-1862, 1863-1864, 1865-1866, 1867-1868, 1869-1870, 1871-1872, 1873-1874, 1875-1876, 1877-1878, 1879-1880, 1881-1882, 1883-1884, 1885-1886, 1887-1888, 1889-1890, 1891-1892, 1893-1894, 1895-1896, 1897-1898, 1899-1900, 1901-1902, 1903-1904, 1905-1906, 1907-1908, 1909-1910, 1911-1912, 1913-1914, 1915-1916, 1917

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Glory days of a songster



Bruce Springsteen: the rock superstar is featured in extracts from his shows in Bruce Springsteen Glory Days (BBC2, 6.00pm)

● Bruce Springsteen's *Glory Days* (BBC2, 6.00pm) is an ample profile of the bus driver's son from New Jersey who has become one of the more durable of the rock idols who emerged in the early 1970s. The programme contains extensive interviews with members of E Street Band, as well as with Springsteen himself, and there are extracts from 14 performances previously not on television, including his British (and European) debut at the Hammersmith Odeon in 1975. What comes out of Springsteen's showmanship, his ability to rattle off five new songs a day ("you could kill him"), says one admiring associate, and his stoicism in face of the media ballyhoo. When he first came to England he tore down the more hysterical posters because he felt they were building

him into something he was not. Apart from a brief reference to his contented marriage there is little hint of his life away from the concert platform. This is a very much a public portrait, though no one can blame him for wanting it that way.

● Brass Tacks (BBC2, 8.30pm) is back for a 32-part series, with a new presenter, John Harrison. Tonight's film, *The Care Bearers*, is about children (some very young) who are forced to devote their lives to looking after house-bound and disabled parents. Next week's follow-up programme will give viewers' reactions in a studio debate.

Peter Waymark

● Peter Daville writes: As you would expect from a montage, the six-part 20th-century Sex (Radio 4, 8.30pm) launches itself from many shoulders, of which only two (Victoria Gillick's and Martin Cole's) are positively identified. For the rest, we have what I assume are the series' principal themes enunciated in short quotes (spoken) and snippets of lyrics (sung) — topics such as Aids, VD, family planning, and family/school sex education or the lack of it ("I always thought babies came out of belly buttons in a balloon, and the doctor burst it"). And there is courtship. Once, it was a respectful kiss on the doorstep, going home after the last waltz. Now, we hear, all that separates first meeting from first sexual bout is the time it takes for the couple to get from pub to bed.



Victoria Gillick: 20th-century Sex (Radio 4, 8.30pm)

VARIATIONS

BBC1 WALKS: 6.25pm-6.30pm. Today's 6.25-7.00pm. For 11.30-12.00 Week in West 10.10-10.30. Strike 11.40-12.00. News 12.10-12.15. News and weather. SCOTLAND: 10.00-10.05. News 10.05-10.10. News 10.10-10.15. News 10.15-10.20. News 10.20-10.25. News 10.25-10.30. News 10.30-10.35. News 10.35-10.40. News 10.40-10.45. News 10.45-10.50. News 10.50-10.55. News 10.55-11.00. News 11.00-11.05. News 11.05-11.10. News 11.10-11.15. News 11.15-11.20. News 11.20-11.25. News 11.25-11.30. News 11.30-11.35. News 11.35-11.40. News 11.40-11.45. News 11.45-11.50. News 11.50-11.55. News 11.55-12.00. News 12.00-12.05. News 12.05-12.10. News 12.10-12.15. News 12.15-12.20. News 12.20-12.25. News 12.25-12.30. News 12.30-12.35. News 12.35-12.40. News 12.40-12.45. News 12.45-12.50. News 12.50-12.55. News 12.55-1.00. News 1.00-1.05. News 1.05-1.10. News 1.10-1.15. News 1.15-1.20. News 1.20-1.25. News 1.25-1.30. News 1.30-1.35. News 1.35-1.40. News 1.40-1.45. News 1.45-1.50. News 1.50-1.55. News 1.55-2.00. News 2.00-2.05. News 2.05-2.10. News 2.10-2.15. News 2.15-2.20. News 2.20-2.25. News 2.25-2.30. News 2.30-2.35. News 2.35-2.40. News 2.40-2.45. News 2.45-2.50. News 2.50-2.55. News 2.55-3.00. News 3.00-3.05. News 3.05-3.10. News 3.10-3.15. News 3.15-3.20. News 3.20-3.25. News 3.25-3.30. News 3.30-3.35. News 3.35-3.40. News 3.40-3.45. News 3.45-3.50. News 3.50-3.55. News 3.55-4.00. News 4.00-4.05. News 4.05-4.10. News 4.10-4.15. News 4.15-4.20. News 4.20-4.25. News 4.25-4.30. News 4.30-4.35. News 4.35-4.40. News 4.40-4.45. News 4.45-4.50. News 4.50-4.55. News 4.55-5.00. News 5.00-5.05. News 5.05-5.10. News 5.10-5.15. News 5.15-5.20. News 5.20-5.25. News 5.25-5.30. News 5.30-5.35. News 5.35-5.40. News 5.40-5.45. News 5.45-5.50. News 5.50-5.55. News 5.55-6.00. News 6.00-6.05. News 6.05-6.10. News 6.10-6.15. News 6.15-6.20. News 6.20-6.25. News 6.25-6.30. News 6.30-6.35. News 6.35-6.40. News 6.40-6.45. News 6.45-6.50. News 6.50-6.55. News 6.55-7.00. News 7.00-7.05. News 7.05-7.10. News 7.10-7.15. News 7.15-7.20. News 7.20-7.25. News 7.25-7.30. News 7.30-7.35. News 7.35-7.40. News 7.40-7.45. News 7.45-7.50. News 7.50-7.55. News 7.55-8.00. News 8.00-8.05. News 8.05-8.10. News 8.10-8.15. News 8.15-8.20. News 8.20-8.25. News 8.25-8.30. News 8.30-8.35. News 8.35-8.40. News 8.40-8.45. News 8.45-8.50. News 8.50-8.55. News 8.55-9.00. News 9.00-9.05. News 9.05-9.10. News 9.10-9.15. News 9.15-9.20. News 9.20-9.25. News 9.25-9.30. News 9.30-9.35. News 9.35-9.40. News 9.40-9.45. News 9.45-9.50. News 9.50-9.55. News 9.55-10.00. News 10.00-10.05. News 10.05-10.10. News 10.10-10.15. News 10.15-10.20. News 10.20-10.25. News 10.25-10.30. News 10.30-10.35. News 10.35-10.40. News 10.40-10.45. News 10.45-10.50. News 10.50-10.55. News 10.55-11.00. News 11.00-11.05. News 11.05-11.10. News 11.10-11.15. News 11.15-11.20. News 11.20-11.25. News 11.25-11.30. News 11.30-11.35. News 11.35-11.40. News 11.40-11.45. News 11.45-11.50. News 11.50-11.55. News 11.55-12.00. News 12.00-12.05. 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News 2.10-2.15. News 2.15-2.20. News 2.20-2.25. News 2.25-2.30. News 2.30-2.35. News 2.35-2.40. News 2.40-2.45. News 2.45-2.50. News 2.50-2.55. News 2.55-3.00. News 3.00-3.05. News 3.05-3.10. News 3.10-3.15. News 3.15-3.20. News 3.20-3.25. News 3.25-3.30. News 3.30-3.35. News 3.35-3.40. News 3.40-3.45. News 3.45-3.50. News 3.50-3.55. News 3.55-4.00. News 4.00-4.05. News 4.05-4.10. News 4.10-4.15. News 4.15-4.20. News 4.20-4.25. News 4.25-4.30. News 4.30-4.35. News 4.35-4.40. News 4.40-4.45. News 4.45-4.50. News 4.50-4.55. News 4.55-5.00. News 5.00-5.05. News 5.05-5.10. News 5.10-5.15. News 5.15-5.20. News 5.20-5.25. News 5.25-5.30. News 5.30-5.35. News 5.35-5.40. News 5.40-5.45. News 5.45-5.50. News 5.50-5.55. News 5.55-6.00. News 6.00-6.05. News 6.05-6.10. News 6.10-6.15. News 6.15-6.20. News 6.20-6.25. News 6.25-6.30. News 6.30-6.35. News 6.35-6.40. News 6.40-6.45. News 6.45-6.50. News 6.50-6.55. News 6.55-7.00. News 7.00-7.05. News 7.05-7.10. News 7.10-7.15. News 7.15-7.20. News 7.20-7.25. News 7.25-7.30. News 7.30-7.35. News 7.35-7.40. News 7.40-7.45. News 7.45-7.50. News 7.50-7.55. News 7.55-8.00. News 8.00-8.05. News 8.05-8.10. News 8.10-8.15. News 8.15-8.20. News 8.20-8.25. News 8.25-8.30. News 8.30-8.35. News 8.35-8.40. News 8.40-8.45. News 8.45-8.50. News 8.50-8.55. News 8.55-9.00. News 9.00-9.05. News 9.05-9.10. News 9.10-9.15. News 9.15-9.20. News 9.20-9.25. News 9.25-9.30. News 9.30-9.35. News 9.35-9.40. News 9.40-9.45. News 9.45-9.50. News 9.50-9.55. News 9.55-10.00. News 10.00-10.05. News 10.05-10.10. News 10.10-10.15. News 10.15-10.20. News 10.20-10.25. News 10.25-10.30. News 10.30-10.35. News 10.35-10.40. News 10.40-10.45. News 10.45-10.50. News 10.50-10.55. News 10.55-11.00. News 11.00-11.05. News 11.05-11.10. News 11.10-11.15. News 11.15-11.20. News 11.20-11.25. News 11.25-11.3

